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07 Notes - Courts Martial II

Krikor Guerguerian

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Confidential

Cipher letter

November 29, 1915.

The Sublime Porte informs me that Djemal Pasha has telegraphed the War Office that the American Consuls in Syria were busying themselves in Armenian affairs and that if they should so continue the Ottoman authorities might have to take more stringent measures against the Armenians. The Sublime Porte has requested me to instruct you not to interfere in the internal affairs of Turkey. I am therefore complying with their request although not convinced that you have been doing so.

In the matter of the distribution of relief funds to Armenian Ottoman subjects, you will as far as possible do the work through American Missionaries or other reliable persons and in general not encourage Ottoman subject Armenians to come to the Consulate.

Irrrespective of this humanitarian work, I instruct you not to interfere in purely Ottoman matters. The Turkish officials, during this abnormal and transitory period are most jealous of their "independence" and "emancipation from capitulations" and are quite capable of doing further harm to the very people we may wish to help. I therefore desire to repeat that you should be most careful not to interfere in purely internal affairs. This, however, should in no way conflict with your duty to protect Armenians who are American citizens or subjects of any of countries we represent. Nor does this instruction mean that you should discontinue sending me political non-military reports as soon as you can send them sealed. These reports may be on any subject of general interest.

Morgenthau

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Cipher letter

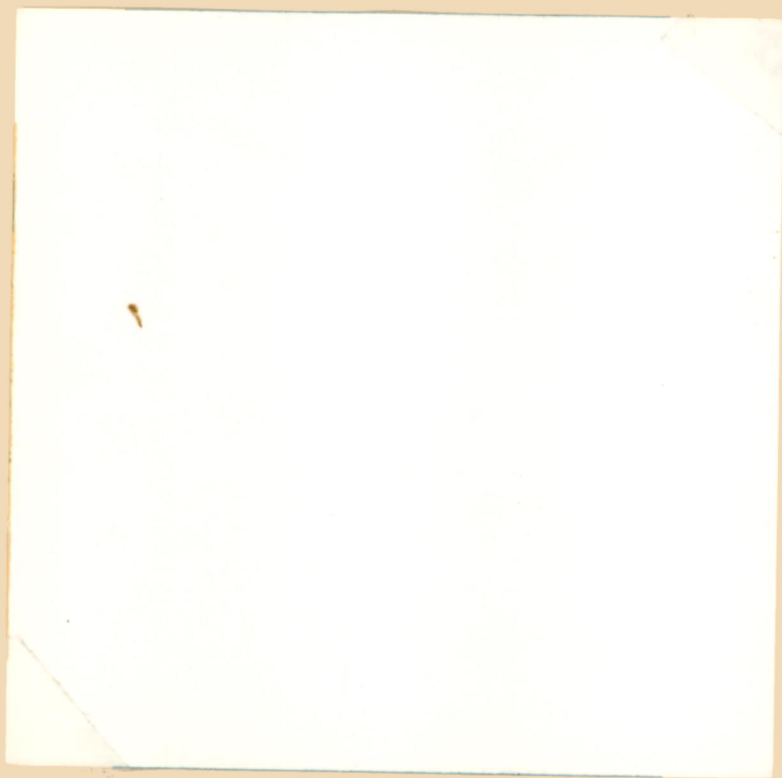
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IRADE IMPÉRIAL

Un iradé impérial sanctionne la formation de deux commissions qui seront chargées d'enquêter sur les opérations des détenus accusés d'accaparement. Les présidents de ces commissions toucheront chacun 10.000 et les membres 6.000 piastres par mois. 1

Le ministère de l'intérieur a télégraphié à Konia de remettre aux Arméniens leur école en ruine que les turcs s'étaient avisés de reconstruire pour leur propre compte. 2

Le conseil Païgue du Patriarcat Arménien ayant estimé nécessaire d'établir une liste détaillée des pertes et dommages des Arméniens déportés, des questionnaires imprimés seront incessamment envoyés aux provinces pour être distribués aux nationaux habitant les villes et villages. Des questionnaires analogues seront distribués aux Arméniens de la capitale ayant subi des dommages.

1- La Ren. n° 140, Jeudi 15/5/1919.

2- " " 141, Vendredi, 16/5/1919.

3- " " 143, Dim. 18/5/1919

Suivant le Vertchine Lour, sur l'initiative des autorités anglaises, le fameux projet de loi des biens abandonnés, élaboré par le gouvernement unioniste, sera déclaré nul et non avenu.

De la sorte les Arméniens déportés dépourillés lors de la déportation pourront rentrer sans autre tergiversation, en possession de leurs terrains, immeubles, etc, même si ces derniers ont été vendus ou transférés à d'autres, suivant les formalités ad hoc. Quant aux biens de ceux qui sont morts et qui ne laissent aucun héritier, ceux-là reviendront à la nation arménienne.

Le Patriarch arménien a fait des démarches pour obtenir la restitution à la nation d'un terrain de 14.000 pîcs sis à Ostakeny, que l'ex ministre de la guerre, Enver s'était approprié de force en l'achetant pour la somme ridicule de 8.900 fr. i. s. t. r. s.

1. La Rev. N° 154, Samedi 31/5/1919.

2. " " 155, Dim. 1/6/1919.

La direction générale de la police occupe depuis la guerre, l'immeuble SANASARIAN Han, appartenant à la nation arménienne, qui en exige l'évacuation. 1

Contre les profiteurs

D'après le Turkadjé Stamboul on aurait constaté que les accapareurs qui se sont enrichis d'une façon scandaleuse durant la guerre, continuent encore les mêmes pratiques. La Cour Martiale aurait donc entrepris des démarches pour y mettre fin. 2

Il y a quelques jours, un nombre considérable de cloches, enlevées aux églises des villages chrétiens dévastés par les UNIONISTES, ont été vendues au dépôt de Top Hané. Une partie de ces cloches appartient aux communautés grecques et une autre aux communautés arméniennes. 3

1. La Rev. N° 156, Mardi 3/5/1919.

2. " " 164, Jeudi 12/5/1919

3. " " 179, Dim, 29/5/1919

4

On écrit de divers points de la province au Patriarcat que les biens et immeubles appartenant aux déportés arméniens qui rentrés dans leurs foyers ne sont pas restitués par les autorités. Celles-ci allèguent le manque d'instructions à ce sujet. Le Patriarcat s'est adressé au ministère de l'intérieur et lui a demandé d'activer la ratification du projet de loi ad hoc.

Les profiteurs

Selon Turkadjé Stamboul on est en train de préparer les dossiers de plus de 1700 officiers (turcs) qui, durant la guerre, se sont enrichis par suite d'abus ou de spéculation. Ceux-ci seront traduits par devant la Cour Martiale.

1. La Ren. N° 208, 2/8/1919 Samedi

2. " " 213, Jeudi, 14/8/1919

I

Statement
of Admiral Azmi Pasha
Minister of Marine

Jemal Azmi, Vali of Trebizond, who, actually, took refuge in Berlin, is a monster. He used to feel a monstrous joy in killing Christians. He hated me because I sent reports to Istanbul, insisting on the removal of this savage man, and asking that Armenians and Greeks, who constitute an element of civilization in Anatolia, ~~have~~ ^{were} not to be tortured, since they had not ~~been in a~~ ^{taken} hostile position against

the Government.

It is untrue that the non-Mohamedans
of Trebizond wished to ~~shoot~~^{shoot} the Ottoman
Army ⁱⁿ on the back; they never fired
on our soldiers.

1. Jamanaq, May 6, 1919.

1
DUPLICATE

No. 1023

February 29, 1916

The Honorable
The Secretary of State.
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit here-
with a copy of a despatch dated February
8, 1916 from the American Consul at
Aleppo, in which he reports upon the
number of Armenian immigrants in his
district and their needs.

Signed / Hoffman Philip.

No. 134

Copy
American Consulate
Aleppo, Syria,
February 8, 1916.

The Honorable

Henry Morgenthau,
American Ambassador,
Constantinople, Turkey.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report received from reliable sources in a reference to the number of Armenian immigrants in this vicinity, ~~and down the Euphrates~~ between here and Damascus and in that surrounding country, and down the Euphrates river as far as Der-el-Zor, showing a total of about 100,000 persons.

Signed /
J. Jackson,
Consul.

Copy.

The following is the statistics of Armenian immigrants according to best information,

<u>Damascus as far as Maan, more than 100,000</u>			
<u>Hama and surrounding villages</u>			12,000
<u>Homs</u>	"	"	20,000
<u>Aleppo</u>	"	"	7,000
<u>Maraa</u>	"	"	4,000
<u>Bab</u>	"	"	8,000
<u>Mumbidge</u>	"	"	5,000
<u>Ras-el-Fin</u>	"	"	20,000
<u>Rakka</u>	"	"	10,000
<u>Der-el-Zor</u>	"	more than	300,000
Total			<u>486,000</u>

February 3, 1916. 1

1. National Archives, Washington D. C.,
 No 867, 48/271.

1 - 8
Le procès des déportation de Baghtchédjik, d'Aslan Bey et des villages voisins s'est continué hier devant la seconde Cour Martiale. Il a rempli les séances d'avant et d'après-midi.

A la première séance avait été cité Mihran Sémerdjian, marchand de manufacture à Baghtchédjik. Il a déclaré que Ali Chouézi Bey, malgré l'ordre formel donné de ne pas rapatrier les familles catholiques et protestantes et celles des soldats, les avoir expédiées toutes, par maihones à Izmidt, où on les avait expédiées ~~toutes~~ dispersées disperser dans des villages musulmans.

L'inculpé a demandé au témoin de lui vendre les marchandises de son magasin, à vil prix, mais sur son refus, il les acheta par menace, à 32 Livres et voulut lui faire signer un bon pour 100 Ltgs. Ali Chouézi avait des hommes à lui qui achetaient à vil prix, les meubles des Arméniens.

L'épicier Régis Ef d'Aslanbey cité comme témoin, déclara qu'il avait gardé dans sa maison les meubles et effets d'Ardash Der Garabedian, qui était son ami intime.

2 9
à la demande de celui-ci et, les lui a
retournés complets et intacts. Il a constaté
que Védjîhi Bey, le mal-muduri de Derbend,
a fait ramasser tous les meubles et les biens
des Arméniens et les a fait entasser dans
l'église et dans la fabrique d'Ardachès.

Ardachès Dor-Garabédian, propriétaire
d'une filature et de soie à Aslanbag, a décl-
aré que Védjîhi Bey, pour lui donner l'autori-
sation de faire garder ses meubles et marchan-
dises, a exigé 155 Livres. Il a vu Védjîhi Bey faire
remplir des voitures avec des meubles, mais il
ne sait pas à qui ils appartenaient. ... 1

1. Le REN. No 382, Jeudi 26/2/1920.

Marache

Les patriarchats arménien grégorien, arménien catholique, et le chef religieux ^{arménien} protestant des arméniens protestants, viennent de recevoir de leurs représentants à Marache, un télégramme daté d'hier (19 février 1919) et dont voici le résumé :

Au fur et à mesure que les déportés arméniens retournent d'exil, ils s'adressent aux autorités turques pour rentrer en possession de leurs immeubles; la direction de la comptabilité (Mouhassébedji) de Marache, Moustapha Ef. à qui le gouvernement réfère leurs requêtes, refuse de les recevoir, en prétendant que ces immeubles ayant été acquis par l'Etat, sont enregistrés au nom de ce dernier. A ces singulières explications, le dit Moustapha Ef. ayant ses regrets de ce qu'il existe encore des Arméniens en vie rentrant dans leurs provinces,

Les malheureux rescapés en sont réduits à errer dans les rues de Marache, sans abris,

2 11
ni vêtements, ni nourriture. Les signataires du télégramme attirent l'attention des patriarches sur la situation scandaleuse et insistent pour qu'il y soit mis un terme. Ils demandent enfin la punition du triste fonctionnaire qui, au lendemain de la grande tragédie dont a frémi l'Europe entière, ose encore étaler ses sentiments anti-chrétiens et continuer l'œuvre de l'aneantissement qui a valu aux jeunes Turcs d'aussi beaux résultats.

On nous communique à ce propos les renseignements suivants:

Le Mouhassébédjî dont on se plaint si justement et dont le zèle ne paraît pas devoir se ralentir, a joué un grand rôle pendant et après les déportations. D'accord avec Hadji Niazi Ef. président de la commission des biens abandonnés, qui s'est mis depuis à l'abri en se fixant à Constantinople, après avoir réalisé une grosse fortune aux dépens des Arméniens. Le comptable Moustapha Ef. a vendu à des

prix invraisemblables les terres et les immeubles des Arméniens à des Turcs de la localité. Il y avait, dans chaque vente, le prix officiel payé au trésor et la part inavouée du Mouhassébedji, et de Hadji Niazî, Ibrahim Ef. délégué responsable du Comité Union et Progrès s'est fait adjuger à seize Ltgs en papier monnaie la propriété d'un Arménien. Le même jour, l'acheteur a loué l'immeuble à vingt livres Turques or. (par an)

En présence des assurances données par le gouvernement relativement à la restitution des biens des déportés arméniens, on se demande comment le Mouhassébedji de Marashe est maintenu à son poste et comment il ose observer une telle attitude à l'égard des victimes.

Il ne serait pas inutile d'ajouter que sans parler des biens meubles, il y a trois catégories de terres et d'immeubles arméniens qu'il s'agirait de rendre à leurs propriétaires

l'égiti mes;

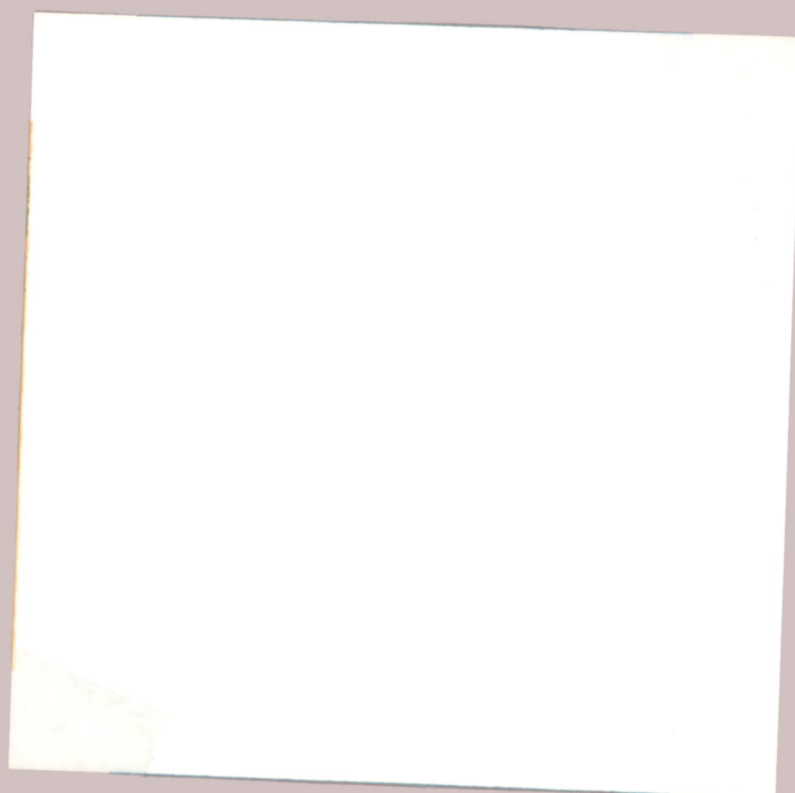
1. ceux qui sont enrégistrés au nom de l'Etat comme biens abandonnés,

2. Les terres et immeubles transférés par le gouvernement au nom du tiers contre des sommes dérisoires;

3. Les terres et les immeubles vendus légalement par la Banque Agricole, sous prétexte que ses souscripteurs arméniens n'auraient pas tenu leurs engagements. Ainsi, pour 20 livres payables en 10 versements annuels, que devait un Arménien. Cette institution financière de l'Etat a trouvé bon de vendre à cent livres, à fin de régler la créance de 20 livres et de verser le reste à la Commission des biens abandonnés.

Tel est l'état de chose actuel à Marache. 1

1 La Rem. N° 69, Jeudi, 20/2/1919,



On restitue

La police anglaise avait opéré avant hier une perquisition au domicile sis à Pera, de Djavid Pacha, mudir de la Régie de Sivas, où selon certaines indications devaient se trouver plusieurs objets de valeur provenant du pillage des biens des Arméniens. Cette perquisition resta infructueuse.

Mais hier la femme du Pacha s'est rendue de son propre gré au Patriarcat Arménien et a restitué des ornements et des objets sacrés, des manuscrits précieux, etc.

Le Ministère des finances a reçu des instructions en vue de saisir l'imprimerie du TANINÉ, celle-ci faisant partie des biens appartenant au Comité Union et Progrès.

1. La REN. No 87, Jeudi 13/3/1919

2. " " 88. Vendredi, 14/3/1919

6

Les autorités militaires anglaises d'Alep ont invité les Arméniens à présenter une liste avec documents à l'appui, des dommages subis du chef de pillage etc. lors de la guerre.

Les mêmes autorités déploient une vive activité pour faire récupérer aux ayants droit les pertes qu'ils ont subies.

Si on des principaux coupables des massacres des Arméniens, lors des événements du mois de mars 1919, ont été pendus à Alep ces derniers jours par ordre des autorités militaires anglaises. 1

1. La Rev. N° 201, Vend. 25/7/1919.

Le ministre des finances a envoyé aux autorités provinciales un grand nombre de la loi sur la restitution des biens spoliés appartenant aux Arméniens. Le ministre aurait donné des ordres catégoriques en vue de l'application intégrale de cette loi. Reste à savoir si les forces nationales estimeront « légitimes et logique... » 1

Profiteur des massacres (de source autorisée)
L'ex-président du Comité Union et Progrès à Césarie se trouve actuellement en Europe pour procéder à la vente de milliers de tapis qu'il est présumé avoir pillés des Arméniens lors de leur déportation. En signalant la présence de cet individu à l'attention des commerçants arméniens de Paris, le JAMANAQ les invite à provoquer immédiatement son arrestation. 2

1. La Revue No 388, Jeudi, 14/3/1920.

2. " " 282, " 26/2/1920.

... Remzi Bey, directeur des postes et télégraphes, beau-père du juge d'instruction, dit Bey Baba, président des biens abandonnés à Yozgat. Tous ces tristes héros organisèrent les pillages après avoir organisé les massacres.

Ils furent officiellement nommés membres de la Commission des « biens abandonnés » et achevèrent leur œuvre par la spoliation officielle des biens de ceux qu'on avait supprimés.

Les marchandises du magasin K. Picanian et fils, estimés environ à Lys 70.000 furent vendues à 800 Lys. Quant aux femmes, on leur proposa d'embrasser l'islamisme. La plupart préférèrent l'exil où elles trouvèrent d'ailleurs la mort. 1

1. La Rev. No 68, Mardi, 18/2/1919,
d'après Vertchine Lour

IHRACAT COMMISSIONOU

Une des plaies que le système jeune turc a faites à la vie commerciale, était la constitution de la fameuse Commission d'exportation « IHRACAT COMMISSIONOU », qui a anéanti en quelque sorte le commerce. Pour expédier quelques marchandises à l'extérieur, on devait subir toute sorte d'impôts injustifiés, pour remplir les poches des néoriches jeunes turcs.

Or, bien que le Comité se soit écroulé, la dite Commission existe toujours.

A qui attribuer actuellement le maintien de cette fameuse commission? On sait pour quoi elle a été créée. C'était un moyen d'enrichir les amis du Comité et de ruiner le commerce (grec). /

1. La Rev. N° 71, Sam. 22/2/1919.

Les immeubles des déportés

Le Djagadamard traite de la restitution des immeubles ravis aux déportés arméniens et dit, c'est là, d'après les informations parvenues de divers points de la province, l'un des mobiles de la situation trouble actuelle. Le gouvernement a prescrit que cette restitution ne doit se faire qu'aux déportés propriétaires qui viennent en personne réclamer leurs biens.

Si les propriétaires ne se présentent pas ainsi, leurs héritiers proches ou éloignés ne peuvent les remplacer.

Pourquoi donc cette réserve ? C'est là une décision qui pourrait donner lieu à des suites graves. Si le gouvernement ne restitue pas les immeubles, ils resteront donc entre les mains des Turcs, ou bien ils deviendront propriété d'Etat. Dans les 2 cas, c'est là une décision arbitraire.

Et le journal indique le seul moyen de conjurer des complications ultérieures. C'est de restituer à la communauté arménienne les immeubles dont les propriétaires immédiats ne se présenteraient pas. 1

1. La Rev. no 75, Jeudi, 27/2/1919.

Reading of official
Documents

AT THE SESSION of the Turkish
Extraordinary Court Martial
and their authenticity

Reading of documents

Three reports dispatched by the Governor of Kayseri were read in the Courtroom ^{at} in the presence of defendants [Kemal Bey, Mutesarif of Yozgat^t and Gendarmerie~~is~~ Commander Major Tevfik Bey]. The first of these reports stated that twenty-six or thirty-six Armenians tied to each other were killed ~~an~~ at night and buried by the gendarmes of Ihsan Bey, at Yazı Chipni.

Kemal simply denied~~x~~ this because the village of Yazı Chipni was out of his jurisdiction.

Tevfik - I have no information because I did not receive any official document concerning this incident.

President - These testimonies are coming from a Governor who is not your enemy, who does not recognize you. This establishes that the crimes were committed by the gendarmes under your jurisdiction.

Here is the testimony of Houlunsi Bey, Gendarmerie detachment Commander, who establishes that you ordered the killing of Armenians and their burial next day in the area of YAZI-Chipai.

Kemal could not answer.

He began to think seriously.

Tevfik insisted that Houlunsi Bey, Takim Kumandanı of Boghazlian, had never reported such a fact to him.

President - When did ^{the} you pursue, inves-

tigation and deportation of the Armenians begin and (end?) ^{was over?}

Tevfik - At the beginning of the mobilization [July 1914], a signal was given from Sivas. I began to pursue chetes (gangs) on the mountain of Chat. I ^{not} ~~don't~~ remember the exact date of deportation. I was in Yozgad when the first and second ^{convoys} groups were deported. I ^{not} ~~don't~~ know when exactly.

President - when did you have an interview with İrfan Bey, Chief of the Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa at Ankara. You were in Yozgad ⁱⁿ on July, August and September.

Tevfik - I ^{not} ~~don't~~ know this name.

Then the president ordered the recording secretary to read the report of Hıvulpusi:

Reading of Documents

"President - (Directly to the recording secretary):
read.

" War Office

" Army Department

" To the Central Command, Constantinople.

" January 21, 1915.
(Yevad Bey.)

" No 1117.

" Reply to the notice No 159 dated
November 17, 1914.

" 1- Concerning the Organization of gangs
(çete), the following is a copy of the order
issued by the Department addressed to the
first, second, third, fourth and fifth armies as
well as to the Commander of the army in the zone
of Smyrna and to other army commanders.

" Send to pre-established areas the gangs
(çete) whose training is already achieved. Give
information concerning the service of those who
are sent, the purpose of their service and whether
they have been trained or not to distribute
them according to their training or their distri-
bution in the workers' battalions.

"2- A special regulation was prepared concerning the release of detainees and convicts from prisons and their expedition to the army tied together and fixed their service. According to the decision relative to the proclamation of the said regulation for their activity, they will be retained in various houses of detention. 2267 individuals, as shown in a note herewith enclosed there is no reason for the time being to accomplish the job they are assigned to.

"3- 531 individuals who were being trained for the execution of a special purpose, were sent to the pre-established areas because of the lack of achievement in the formation.

"4- Also 335 individuals being from among the Moslem refugees of Batum and vicinity, and being gathered here for the present time must be handed over (available) by order of the 3rd Army.

"On behalf of the Supervisor of the Military department; signed / Behij.

"To be seen the the Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa Commission and returned.

November 25, 1914.

Seen: 26 current.

To the Secretariat for file. 1

1- Takvim-i Vakayi, No 3543, 2nd Session, May 2, 1915, published Mar 14, 1919; p. 28-29.

1

Drinking Parties
To the Health of the Armenians

Mrs. Aznive Alexanian, wife of the director of Ipranosian Bros. in Yozgat, officially testified¹ and corroborated the perpetration of the massacre.
"Kemal Bey 2) ordered to the gendarmes conducting a caravan of Armenian deportees, 'Where are you going? - Cross over beyond the hill and destroy them.'
So 280 Armenians were killed.

The eyewitness could not retain her emotion, when she was relating details of the massacre carried out at Tash-Punar and Kelter.

"President - where ^{did} you get from such details?

"Mrs. Aznive - These are events which happened before my eyes. I took refuge in the home of ^{Nuzimzadeh} Ali. We lived horrible days. Can ^{now} you forget it? I saw the Kehya 3) of the village whose arms and legs were tied, and who was at the head of the convoy of deportees. Even he was in agony, despite this he was compelled to walk. Feyaz Bey, here present, a whip in his hand,

- 1- Turkish Court Martial, session, March 28, 1919.
- 2- Kemal, Kaymakam of Boghazlian, promoted active Mutesarrif of Yozgat, August 6, 1915 to the second decade of September 1915.
- 3- Kehia, Armenian chief of village.
- 4- Here, in the court room.

accompanied the caravan, and giving orders here and there, left and right.

Women and girls in the convoy were stripped to their most private parts to take their money.

When Kemal Bey came to Yozgat, convoys of Armenians deportees were massacred. Terfik Bey, gendarme commander had them killed en route while Feyaz had them pillaged. He used a whip to impel a pregnant woman.

I saw them shouting: "God created us for today. The people were armed with axes, weapons of all kind, and in a distance of two hours, they got their job done and returned. I was not there, but I saw Artin Kehya wounded and with bloody clothes. Nizamzade Ali Bey gave me refuge in his house."

Kemal objected that this woman could not obtain so many details while in a home and asserted that all her testimony was hearsay.

"Mrs. Aznive - I was visiting the wife of Vehbi Bey, Chief Accountant, 5) Kemal and Terfik were talking with Vehbi and Kemal said to Vehbi that he had so many Armenians massacred, but

5. Vehbi was President of the Commission of "Abandoned Goods" confiscated from Armenians and liquidated.

still he was not satisfied. To get satisfaction he would also have the Armenians of Yozgat massacred. Tervfik, Vehbi and Kemal had secret deliberations in the house (of Vehbi) ^{on} how to deport and destroy the Armenians. This Court may ask Tervfik where, now, are the men of ^{the} Armenian families of Yozgat, ^{the} women are without protection, but where are their men?

In addition, Mrs Aznive answered Kemal: "I was hidden in that house only for two days. Vehbi Bey committed many crimes, but he saved my life. I can not deny this fact. Every day Kemal and Tervfik used to come to the house of Vehbi for deliberation, as I said above.

"Kemal - She is a liar.

"Mrs. Aznive - To Tervfik: was it not you who, armed with a sword and whip, were shouting towards women near the house of Kasparian? "Come with us and show us the hidden arms in Armenian houses."»

"Tervfik - No, we asked such a question because of Minasian's accusation". Feyaz also tried to justify himself without success.

Then Vehbi Bey, Chief Accountant (Muhasebeci) in Yozgat, testified as a witness in charge. He was the president of the Commission

of "Abandoned Goods," in Yozgat. He mustered enough strength to appear before the Court as he was already implicated, especially as far as the plunder and confiscation of Armenians' possessions were concerned.

He testified:

"Kemal Bey delivered the list of the Armenian deportees to me and I also collected the superfluous amounts of money from the Armenian deportees and entered them in a special ledger. The Armenian caravans were then deported, escorted by a few trustworthy men."

"President - Was there a special clause in the instructions stating that all goods and possessions of the Armenian deportees were to be seized without giving thought to the fact they needed money to live?"

"Vehbi - I don't ^{not} recall."

"President - If there was no such clause in the instructions, how did you dare to engage in such conduct and behaviour?"

Vehbi began to reflect...

"President - Why did you take the Primate's ring?"

"Vehbi - In prison, I told him to deliver to me what he had with him. He entrusted me with his ring, one hundred Turkish pounds and a Sacred object. I had them registered as they were given to me."

"President - What was your relationship with Kemal?"

"Vehbi - Kemal brought a recommendation from Ankara. I was his host for some days. I had no other relationship with him."

"President - Did you indulge in drinking parties together (Louzico)?"

The Defense Attorney asked whether or not the witness knew Aznive and whether Tevfik participated in the drinking parties?

"Vehbi - Perhaps. I see her. Tevfik used to participate in drinking parties."

Vehbi and Aznive were cross-examined. At first Vehbi tried not to recognize her. Then he said: "She came to ask for my protection. I told her not to be afraid. Wasn't that ^{not} so?"

"Aznive - Yes, I can not deny his help, but I can not forget that in your room you were drinking with them saying: 'to the health of the Armenians'."

You always held meetings with them and I overheard your conversations, I confess, beyond the door.

Vehbi - My conscience does not allow me to recognize this as a part of my own conversation. I helped you.

Aznive - Please ask him how the Armenians were arrested in the market place of Yozgat. Gendarmes used to say: "Muhasebeci" Bey wishes to see you. Muhasebeci is Vehbi Bey."

Vehbi tried to convince the Court that he was not aware of the deportation and that he did not know when ~~when~~ the deportation began.

"Aznive - He is lying. Ten days before the deportation, he held secret meetings in his house. He and his colleagues were making decisions and organizing the deportation. Mutessarif Kemal Bey and Secretary Mustapha Bey would not carry out the Government's order.

It was Thursday and Nejati Bey came and held a secret meeting with them. Vehbi Bey said about

~~about~~ Mutessarif Jemal Bey: "This governor is not a Turk. He must be removed from Yozgat. My husband confidentially heard the above words from the Secretary, Mustapha Bey in confidence, and revealed them to me."

Aznive's testimony drew the attention of the Court. The judges and other members looked to each other, and whispered to each other.

The spectators began to leave the courtroom. Vehbi Bey attempted to slip away quickly, as the gendarmes came to arrest him for trial.

The witness in charge was arrested in the courtroom after his testimony and the cross-examination. 6

6 - La Renaissance, No. 101, Saturday, March 29, 1919. Session 15th, March 28, 1919, 2, 30 P.m.

Tamanag, March 29, 1919, p. 4, col. 1, 2, 3.

Sabah daily news

Sabah published on December 12, 1918, the decoded telegram dispatched by Talaat Bey, to the Union and Progress Sub-Committee of Malatia; the document was found in Nour-el-Osmanieh during the investigation held by the Turkish Police;

"Destroy all the Armenians who are driven and gathered in your district.

"I assume entire moral and material responsibility."

An official testimony

Colonel Moukhtar Bey officially testified before the Court Martial that in Kerasunde he received instructions relative to deport Armenians. Jemal Azmi Bey, Governor General of Trebizond, issued the following order:

|| cc Transport Armenians directly to Mossoul via BLACK Sea. ||

La Renaissance, No 112, Thursday, April 11, 1919.

Constitutional Principle

At the first session held on February 5, 1919, by the Extraordinary Court Martial in Constantinople, the Defense Attorney of governor Kemal Bey and Gendarme Commander Tefik Bey, raised the question of obedience to the orders received from high ranking authorities to do what they did. The Court Martial had to try first of all the cabinet members, who had issued orders, and then try the governors and officials who had ^{obeyed} ~~obeyed~~. The Court Martial insistently established the constitutional primary principle; Those among the officials of the government who did not resign in accordance with the terms of the Ottoman Constitution, have to be considered accomplices of the crimes ordered by the Party and Government. and obeyed the orders.

The actual (1919) Minister of Justice concluded that measures have been taken to bring to the Court all those responsible. "There is only one way!", he said, "The Government will punish all the officials of the government beginning ^{with} the governors, generals and exp...".

Release of Criminals from prisons

" President (Court Martial) - ^{Did} Have you released the criminals? This is an important matter. This is a major question.

" Atif Bey - They had to be released. They said to prepare a regulation. The by-laws ^{were} ~~was~~ approved and I think they (criminals) were released accordingly. So, the driving of convicts happened also in other countries.

" ~~The~~ President - This is another question. Which party have you supported?

" Atif Bey - I ~~don't~~ ^{not} remember. >1

1- Tekvim-i Vake'i, No 3557, 6th session, published May 25, 1919, p. 103.

Criminals and convicts were released from prisons since July 1914; registered in Teşkilât-ı Mahsus gangs (sete), for the extermination of the Armenian race.

Constitutional Principle

At the first session held on February 5, 1919, by the Extraordinary Court Martial in Constantinople, the Defense Attorney of governor Kemal Bey and Gendarme Commander Tefik Bey, raised the question of obedience to the orders received from high ranking authorities to do what they did. The Court Martial had to try first of all the cabinet members, who had issued orders, and then try the governors and officials who had ^{obeyed} ~~obeyed~~. The Court Martial insistently established the constitutional primary principle; Those among the officials of the government who did not resign in accordance with the terms of the Ottoman Constitution have to be considered accomplices of the crimes ordered by the Party and Government and obeyed the orders.

The actual (1919) Minister of Justice concluded that measures have been taken to bring to the Court all those responsible. "There is only one way", he said, "the Government will punish all the officials of the government beginning ^{with} by the governors, generals and exp...".

1
" No 151

To His Excellency Vehib Pasha.

" What was the relationship between Muammer Bey [Vali of Sivas] and Nuri Efendi, Captain of Gendarmes, who found the punishment he deserved and who, in the district of Themos had the battalion of Armenian Workers exterminated, Armenian workers who were transported from Sivas to the zone of the 4th Army Corps, and who (Nuri) found the capital punishment he deserved.

" In the minutes of the interrogation of Nuri Efendi, is there any mention of Muammer Bey? Where are the documents of investigation of the matter kept?

" ~~Has~~ Muammer Bey appealed to Your Excellency to prevent the execution of the sanction (death penalty) against the criminal who deserved it?

" ~~Has~~ Muammer Bey communicated to Your Excellency any information concerning the extermination of the battalion workers or that the principal criminal was Nuri Efendi?

" ~~Has~~ Muammer Bey issued an order to hold an investigation, and was such an investigation held prior to Your Excellency's order held an investigation relative to the criminal, and therefore justice? I request, that you please, give explanation in detail concerning this matter.

President of the Inquiry Commission.

Signed / Mazhar. n /

1. JAT. W

Reply to the letter

2

"Kadi-Kery, Adji - Badem

" December 24, 1918.

"To the President of the Inquiry Commission in
the Department of Internal Affairs.

"Excellency,

"I have the honor to answer your letter No 151
dated December 22, 1918.

"I ~~don't~~^{not} know the relationship between Nuri
Efendi, Captain of Gendarmerie and Muammer
Bey, former Vali of Sivas. I

"Only Nuri Bey revealed to me that he had
received an order from Muammer Bey urging him
to transfer the convoy under protection, I asked
him for new explanations relative to the order
he received, and the order proved contrary of
the point of view of Nuri Efendi. When Muammer
Bey was asked, he replied that he had not issued
such an order. Consequently, the insistence of

1. Muammer was Vali in the province of
Sivas and Captain Nuri was gendarm com-
mander under the jurisdiction of Muammer.

Nuri Efendi was word without evidence, and not supported by any official or legal proof and of no effect. Muammer Bey did not asked me to either forgive the criminal or to release him.

* It is true that the reason Muammer Bey was transferred from Sivas to Konia, & was the divergence between words and acts concerning the military transportations.

Prior to this, (Muammer and I) we met with each other many times and had conversations both in Sivas and my General Headquarters, to no but to no purpose since for Muammer, venturing to introduce an illegal cause to me can never

2 - Commander Vehib Pasha's military jurisdiction extended to the provinces of Sivas, Trebizond, Erzerum, Bitlis, Van, Mamuret-ul-Aziz. Muammer, Vali of Sivas, Memdukh Bey, Mutessarif of Erzinjan promoted Vali of Bitlis, and Dr. Behaeddin Shekir Bey, President of the Teskilat-ul Mahsusa gangs were indicted to appear with Nuri Bey before the Military Court in the General Headquarters of the Third Army Corps. Muammer, Memdukh, Behaeddin refused to appear. Vehib Pasha was intransigent. Talaat Bey came to Anatolia, transferred Muammer to Konia; Memdukh to Mosul; Behaeddin out of the

Dr. Behaeddin Shakir Bey,
President of the Special Organization
at Erzerum

and Talaat Bey, Minister of Internal Affairs
in telegraphic communication.

Read.

(The recording secretary reads:)

"By care of Talaat Bey, Minister of Internal Affairs, to the Central Committee [of the Union and Progress].

"Ismail Hakki Bey arrived here; I think that my job here is achieved^{ve}, my duty accomplished. I gave him accessory instructions to assume the responsibility of the forces in Artvin.

"A portion of the arms and weapons for the Special Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa) arrived here yesterday. I had a meeting with Ismail Hakki Bey; we decided to make martinis available to the Moslems who are in the workers' batallions, to complete what is missing in the organization from Artvin to Morzola and Saruhan.

"I have already 250 cavalry men in

Passen² from the elite. No order until now
has been given to settle them in the rear
or beside the army.

November 17, 1914.

Signed / Behaeddin Shaki.

" Overleaf.

" Because you have no more work to do there,
go immediately to Trebizond for a mission
much more important than the one in Artvin.

" Yakub Cemil Bey, who will go from here,
shall bring there necessary informations and
instructions.

" November 17, 1914.

Signed / Talaat, Minister. 1

1- Takvim-i Vakayi, No 3554, 5th session,
May 12, 1919, p. 70, published May 21, 1919-

1.
Copy

Nº. 233

To Emin Bey, Civil Inspector,

Received December 28, 1918.

In a coded telegram, December 11, 1918, you asked to send you documents relative to the massacre of Armenians carried out on the way of their exit by order of Kemal Bey, Kaymakam of Boghazlian.

Documents relative to the massacre in Boghazlian district are in the dossier of abuses committed regarding the abandoned possessions. The information I submitted was considered satisfactory.

Now I declare . . .

JAT, No 5350.

1

Inspector Nedim Bey, in reply to Civil Inspector Amin Bey, said in his report of December 24, 1918:

"You requested in your coded telegram dated December 11, 1918, to send you the documents relative to massacres, carried out by order of Kemal Bey, Kaymakam of Boghazlian, during the deportation of the Armenians.

"I held on May 1917 an investigation on the massacre of the Armenians and the confiscation of their abandoned possessions, and I concluded that the said Kaymakam Kemal Bey and his accomplices carried out massacres and pillaging, and Ihsan Bey, gendarme commander, violated the daughter of Arabian, a wealthy Armenian.

"The records relative to this matter have been forwarded to the Department of the Interior.

"I learned later on that by decision of the Council of Ministers those individuals have been called before a court of justice and the Court of Appeal in Yozgat condemned them to prison for a time (two months).

"At the time I communicated to the Department of the Interior, informations I collected ~~an~~ as well as documents relative to the exile and massacre of Armenians. Apart ^{from} these informations, I have no more documents.

"The documents ^{relative} to the massacres of the (Armenians) of Boghazlian have been filed in the dossiers relative to the abuses committed concerning the confiscation of abandoned pos.

13
sessions.

a. I declare, with the security of my conscience, that the Armenians of the Boghazlie district have been massacred group after group and the person who issued orders to commit such crimes is Kemal Bey himself. He had communicated confidential instructions and had controlled the execution of the crimes through the gendarme commanders who succeeded each others.

1. JAT, NO 4350

1-

The President of the Court Martial
urges the governor of Yozgat to open investi-
gations concerning the atrocities conducted
by Major Tervfik Bey, gendarme Commander,
in the villages of Terzili, Chat and Kum-Kuyu.

" To the Governor of Yozgat:
" During the atrocities and massacres perpe-
trated upon the Armenians of Terzili and Chat
by order of Tervfik Bey, Gendarme Commander, Moslems
(^{being unable to bear} no more supporting) the cries of Armenian women
and children, begged him to save at least ^{the} (Armenian)
women and children, and not to permit the gangs
(sete) to massacre them, but he did not consider
such a supplication. We urge you to begin an investi-
gation hearing the testimonies of such Moslems
and send us by telegraph as soon as possible
the result of your investigation and supplementary
documents.

February 4, 1919.

President of the Court Martial
trying cases of deportation. 22 1

1- JAJ. No W506.

The President of the Court Martial urges the Acting Commander of the 15th Division, Kayseri, to send information relative to the atrocities perpetrated upon the Armenians of

Kum-Kuyu.

To the Acting Commander of the Division, Kayseri:
 "We urge you to report ^{to us}. Which authorities or Office held an investigation relative to the event of Kum-Kuyu? Who were these individuals who appeared before the Court Martial of Kayseri; Was there any indictment based upon any official report? How many of those persons were sentenced to punishment? Report ^{to us} immediately by telegram and mail us copies of the reports and documents of the investigation.

March 1st, 1919.

President
 of the Court Martial trying
 cases of Deportation. 221

1- J&J, No W235.

Jemal-Ben Kemaleddin,
Governor of Kayseri, sent to the
President of the Court Martial
Three documents relative to the atrocities
perpetrated in Kum-Kuyu

"Decoded communication from the governorate
of Kayseri. No 1545/403. Date, February 19, 1919.

"To the Honorable ^{President} Presidency of the Court
Martial trying cases of Deportation, Constantinople.

"Your Excellency:

"I have the honor to transmit to you three pieces
of documents with supplementary papers relative
to the atrocities committed in Boghazlian and
the village of Kum-Kuyu ^{which} ^{requested} You have asked by your
telegram dated February 18, 1919, No 585/401,
are dispatched here-with.

"Therefore it belongs to you to issue new orders.

February 19, 1919

Mutessarif of Kayseri:

Seal, Jemal-Ben Kemaleddin.

To the Secretariat: March 4, 1919, 221

1- JAT, No 5506.

Gangs (şete)

organized for the extermination
of Armenian deportees.

It is true that at the beginning of the mobilization (July 1914) rumors were disseminated that these gangs would participate in the war, and efforts were made to convince ^{naive} naïf people. However, documentary evidence demonstrates that these gangs (şete) in question were organized to massacre and annihilate the convoys of deportees. 1

1. Takvim-i Vakayi Divan-ı Harbi
Muhakemeti Zabit Ceridesi, official
journal No 3540, official indictment pre-
pared April 12, 1919; read at the session
of the Court Martial, April 27, 1919, at the
presence of both War Cabinet members and
leaders of the Union and Progress Party
of Young Turks. Page 6, col. 2, lines
13 - 20.

[illegible]

1

The Turkish Court Martial in Constantinople delivered a verdict on January 8, 1920, sentencing to various penalties the Executive Secretaries and Delegates of the Union and Progress Party who had organized in the provinces of Anatolia the deportation and massacre of the Armenian population.

"Finally they (party leaders) had chosen the local of the General Headquarters of the Union and Progress Party for vital issues of the State, and negotiations and signature of agreements and treaties. Therein they previously planned in details the crimes to be committed specifically the deportations, the plundering and seizure of the possessions and property, and crimes for accumulation of wealth for speculations and exploitations.

"According to the ^{provisional} (provisory) law of Deportation dated May 14, 1915, they used the advantages of deportations for their personal interests. The above mentioned Central Committee of the

Captain Mustafa reports from Bogha on July 23, 1919 to Colonel Shahabeddin Bey that thirty-six hundred sixty Armenians of Boghazlian and villages were massacred by order of Kemal Bey, Kaymakam of Boghazlian.

" No 207.

" Decoded telegram.

" Decipher ; Army Command, Ankara.

" I have the honor to inform you that according to the telegram of the commandant de place thirty six hundred sixty Armenians of Boghazlian were massacred ^{to date} (up today) by order of the governor.

" July 23, 1915.

" Acting Commander of the 15th Division.

Signed / Shahabeddin ...

By order of the President, the recording Secretary of the Court Martial read the above mentioned two telegrams, Friday, February 21, 1919, at the 9th session at the presence of Governor Kemal Bey and Major Commander Tervik.

1- JAT, No 255.

Mazhar Bey, President of the Inquiry Commission, had already asked to Governor Kemal Bey, on December 16, 1918, the following question;

"You had thirty-six hundred and sixty Armenians of Boghazlian and villages massacred as of July 23, 1915, according to the decoded telegram dispatched to the Army Command on July 23, 1915 by Division Commander Shahabeddin Bey.

"This number is only the number of Armenians massacred up to July 23, 1915." 1

1-JAY. No W541.

+ Governor Sabit Bey
^{orders}
 issued in a coded circular
~~orders~~ to the Mutessarif of Malatia,
 to the gendarmes Commander to bury
 the corpses of the Armenian deportees
 massacred in isolated localities.

Circular telegrams
 dispatched to the district of Malatia
 district and counties.

Telegram to the gendarme Commander,
 to the müdürs (Cherifs) of the counties,

Notice

December 20, 1915

To the Counties, No 645

if there are ^{still} ~~still~~ corpses along the ways not
 yet buried, have immediately the soil ~~digged~~ dug
 deep enough that the dogs ^{may} ~~could~~ not open the wells ditches,
 and have them buried therein. Starting from
 this date and this notice, if corpses will be found,
 immediately, without asking authorization from
 authorities, administrative officials and gen-
 darmes Commanders will be dismissed from
 office according to the orders issued by the

7
Department of the interior and by the Government of the province.

December 4, 1915.

Mutessarif of Malatia.

written to:

gendarmérie,

counties,

districts.

December 21, 1915. /

1-JAR. No 578.

Déclaration
de Halidé Edib Hanem

Dans les jours de notre puissance nous nous sommes efforcés d'exterminer par des méthodes de moyen âge les éléments chrétiens et particulièrement les Arméniens comme si nous rendions service à la patrie turque.

Nous vivons aujourd'hui les jours les plus douloureux et les plus noirs de notre vie nationale.

L'Amérique et l'Angleterre voient en nous un État, qui a massacré ses propres sujets innocents avec leurs enfants.

Le gouvernement actuel déclare qu'il fera rentrer les Arméniens chez eux; nous croyons à la bonne volonté du gouvernement mais nous ne pensons pas que les autorités des provinces pourront exécuter ce travail dans le cadre de la justice; les étrangers ont la même opinion.

Et pour pouvoir assurer que le gouvernement a vraiment décidé de rapatrier les Arméniens chez eux il faudra former une commission mixte composée de turcs qui soient favorables aux Arméniens comme aussi d'Arméniens et d'Américains et accorder à cette commission les pouvoirs les plus étendus. 1

1. Tamarag, traduit du journal Turc VAKIT,
22 octobre 1918.

J'ai remarqué certaines confusions sérieuses et manquements scolaires dans les pages 185-188 de votre livre intitulé : « Le Problème Arménien... » Ces pages sont dénuées de source, malheureusement.

« L'acte d'accusation » ou la requisition (p. 185) a été rédigé par Remzi Bey, procureur impérial de la Cour Martiale Extraordinaire Turque en date du 12 Avril 1919, et officiellement lu à la Séance de la même Cour Martiale le 27 Avril 1919, par ordre du Président, en la présence des membres des deux cabinets de guerre et quelques membres dirigeant de l'Union et Progrès. Le texte entier est de plusieurs pages. (Voir Takvim-i Vakayi, (journal officiel) No 3540, publié le 5 mai 1919. La sentence délivrée par la Cour Martiale Turque en date du 5 Juillet 1919 a une autre source officielle : Takvim-i Vakayi, journal officiel Turk No 3604.

Un scolaire comme vous l'êtes, aurait dû éviter des manquements pareils

Ci-inclu je vous envoie le télégramme circulaire de Mahmoud Kiamil Pacha, Commandant en chef de la 3^e Armée Ottomane sur la frontière

Vous souhaitant bonne Santé
P. G. Gurguerian

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du Caucase ayant sous sa juridiction militaire les six provinces orientales et le district de Djanik. Le même télégramme circulaire est entièrement cité dans la sentence prononcée par la Cour Martiale Turque en date du 8 Janvier 1920. Dr. Behaeddin Chakir Bey est condamné à mort, in absentia et Nazim Bey de Resne, Délégué Responsable de l'Union et Progrès à Kharpout, à 15 ans de travaux forcés. Voir : Takvim-i Vakayi, journal officiel turc, N° 3771, 13 Janvier 1920.

Je souhaite que les erreurs ne soient pas répétées dans la seconde édition de votre livre.

Tout cela avait été bien expliqué à m. J. Libaridian avant qu'il se présente à la Sorbonne avec les documents qui ont été distribués à tous les membres du Tribunal Populaire.

Vous souhaitant bonne Santé
P. G. Gurguerian

Extradition of Criminals?

"With reference of Your Lordship's telegram No. 1840 of 5th December, 1919, and to previous correspondence regarding the surrender or extradition of the Eight Principals who have fled from Turkey, namely: - Talat, Enver, Djemal, Behaeddin Shakir, Dr. Nazim, Djemal Azmi, and Hussein Azmi, I have the honour to enquire of Your Lordship what may be considered to be the present status of these criminals, as also of others, now in the Caucasus, who were listed for surrender by the Turkish Government on the list sent you under cover of my despatch No. 217/R/2178 of 12th February 1920. Such names include General Pasha, General Nuri Pasha, Dr. Ali Sahib, Aziz Bey (in Central Europe), Ismail Simco and Kutchuk Talat...

3 - As Your Lordship is aware, there are now in Malta a number of Turks against whom there are strong prima facie charges of having participated, directly or indirectly, in the massacre of the Ottoman Christian population. The originators of these massacres are still at large outside Turkey, and I am not aware of what has been or can be done to bring them eventually to justice. >>>

1-PRO. No. 24/W/2178. British High Commissioner to Lord Curzon, June 11, 1920, 1920.



3.

No 13801, du 31 Août 1331

Le Mutessarif au Kaimakam 1

X D'après une circulaire adressée par le Ministère des Finances aux vilayets, il n'est pas permis de dépenser ou d'affecter à un but quelconque les mobiliers, marchandises, numéraires et bijoux abandonnés par les Arméniens. Une loi étant en préparation à ce sujet, les biens devront être conservés jusqu'à sa promulgation et s'il y a parmi ces biens des objets susceptibles de périr, ces derniers devront être vendus et le produit de la vente devra être réuni à la caisse du vilayet pour y être conservé. Prière de vous conformer à ces instructions, toutefois, si ces biens contiennent des matières dont l'Armée a besoin, je vous engage à en prendre possession, en vertu de la loi spéciale y

1. Le Ministre de l'intérieur envoyait en général des instructions au préfet (Vali), qui, à son tour, transmettait au Mutessarif, et ce dernier, au Kaimakam. Il s'agit de Sivas, Tokat et Niğaz.

relative, après en avoir fait estimer le prix par la Commission des réquisitions militaires. En ce qui concerne les créances des fournisseurs musulmans associés à des Arméniens, les règles d'usage seront appliquées, mais pour éviter tout abus, il devra être sursis à tout paiement de ce genre.

Questions to Muammer Bey

The Inquiry Commission asked ~~asked~~ questions of to Muammer Bey, Governor General of Sivas, when the latter was in custody in Bekir Ağa Bölüğü, central prison in Constantinople:

"Why you were obliged to separate the women from their husbands, ^{since} as the purpose of the deportation was to move them during war time from the front area and after ^{the} war to transfer them again to their homes?

"So, separating men from women, husbands from wives, brothers from sisters, fathers from daughters, is not ^{for the purpose of} to transferring them from the war area, but ^{rather} to massacre and exterminate them, this was what you did.

"You have demolished their Churches, ruined their cemeteries. This fact establishes that the purpose of the deportations was annihilation of the people and their culture.

"Gathering together the Soldiers ^{into} ~~the~~ working battalions, you ~~have~~ separated from them ^{or} 40-50 Moslem Soldiers as well as 40-50 Greek Soldiers; you ~~have~~ even gathered with the Armenian battalion workers those 52 Armenian soldiers who served ^{The} ~~in~~ Turkish Army in Chanakkaleh, and even ^{those} those who were wounded there, you gathered them with the Armenian workers, you were not interested ^{in their} ~~if they arrived~~ ^{al} or not where they were driven, ^{since} as your goal was to have them massacred.

"This fact is corroborated by testimonies." 1

1. JAT, No 345.



1
The President of the Court Martial
discussing Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa
with Zevad Bey, Commander
of the Center

"President - Two notices will be read; listen, you shall give your opinion.

"(The notices which were already read, are read once more.)

"As I have already explained, we (Young Turks) have no external organization. We thought to use the administration of the sections of the Special Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa). I asked Midhat Shukri Bey. He wrote. This is the answer.

"President - You ^{said} told that the Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa was dependant upon War Office.

"If it was so, the War office had to pay all the expenses, office, military clothing, supplies. It is understood that there was assistance from other departments. The Department of Internal Affairs is meddling. The Central Committee (of Union and Progress) is issuing orders; you

know well that in the affairs of the War Office there cannot be such intervention, and outside meddling is not allowed.

" Atif Bey - We participated in the World War. The War Office was busy with the armies. The development and interest of the State require thinking mostly about national forces. We were organized by ^{the} War Office. We also took advantage of national and special forces.

" President - So, by creating the Special Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa), the General Headquarters (of the Union and Progress) rendered a service.

" Atif Bey - It is not in bringing it into ~~service~~ existence, but during the operations (Union and Progress) ^{that it} was useful to a degree.

" President - (Union and Progress) rendered service ...

" Atif Bey - It did.

" President - But, certain orders issued by (the General Headquarters) are even in opposition

^{to} with the orders issued by the Department of the Internal Affairs.

"Atif Bey. It is not in opposition, Your Honor. We wanted all kinds of things, Your Honor. We sent them to other places because we wanted to have individuals there. We wanted to form gangs (Çete), i.e. we wanted all kinds of men available.

"President - I do not understand.

"Atif Bey - It is not in opposition to the orders of the Department of Internal Affairs, our formation as well as the formation of the Special Organization (Tişkilât-ı Mahsusa) may be applied in general.

"President - Directly to the recording secretary. "Read it!"

(The recording secretary reads the principal part of the document:)

"President - Look at it, the above mentioned⁺ is saying: to the Honorable Executive Central Committee.

"Atif Bey - we entrusted this job to Midhat

Shukri Bey; he was in communication with, and used to report to us.

"President - The Executive Body is writing.

"Atif Bey - No, Your Honor, the (Executive) delegates are writing to Midhat Shukri Bey personally. They say Executive Committee, but it is to the person of Midhat Shukri Bey.

"President - The previous notice also was to the person of Midhat Bey, directly to the recording secretary. Read it! The recording secretary once more reads the other notice.

"President - Here, as you see it; there is a discrepancy between what is written by the Central Committee and the orders issued by the Department of Internal Affairs.

"Releasing the criminals from prisons, is meddling in the affairs, while the other is expressing an opinion opposed to the first one. It may be there is such a conflict.

"President - The Central Committee is not only sending guidelines but also interfering in the affairs saying "make this, do that."

"Atif Bey - The Committee is expressing an

opinion or consideration.

" President. Is the communication made by the Central Committee to the Executive Secretaries a reading, or consideration? Or is it given as an order?

" Atif Bey. Of course, the communication made by the Central Committee is a recommendation, while the Delegates are putting their observations.

" President. The Delegate is making written observation, or expressing his opinion, while the order issued by the Department of Internal Affairs is in discrepancy ~~with~~ with what you have written at that date, etc. If the Department of Internal Affairs is making arrangements for the Special Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa), the Central Committee also issued orders in opposition. Because there is discrepancy in the Department forms, your Delegate is asking what he has to do. The Department of Internal Affairs, the Special Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa), the Central Committee have issued orders in opposition of each other.

How do ^{you} extricate yourself from the affair?

"Atif Bey - Your Honor, after having them (gangs, etc) brought here, after having them equipped here and armed, ~~them~~, we waited for them ^{to} be sent from here, but the Department of ~~Internal Affairs~~ War asked for the Collaboration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and issued orders to do it with the Department of the Interior. Probably it was explained in this way. We have also written it that way. There may be discrepancy^{ies}.

"President - Both telegrams are endorsed to you. How did you come out?

"Atif Bey - I don't ^{not} remember. Perhaps one may find in dossier^x something to this effect. Five years have elapsed. I don't ^{not} recall any details.

X "President - Did you release the criminals from prisons? This is a fact of primary importance. This is the question.

"Atif Bey - The criminals were to be released from prisons; a proposition was made to prepare by-laws; such by-laws were prepared and I think ~~for~~ that provisions were inserted

7

in the regulations, and so, the release of criminals was an accomplished fact, ~~were~~ even in other countries.

"President - This is another question. What were the directives of your preference?

"Atif Bey - I ~~don't~~^{not} recall exactly.

Second Session : 1:50 P.M.

"President - Atif Bey, did the detachment of the Special Organization (Teskilât-ı Mahsusa) report to you informations relative to the military operations?

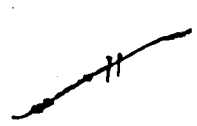
"Atif Bey - They did not report information relative to military operations.

"President - We were attacked, held a defensive attitude, or made a general withdrawal, or some such thing.

"Atif Bey - No, Your Honor, only some times.

"President - Relative to the general movements?

"Atif Bey - Relative to the general movement they sent us information, because there were two reports; we wrote, and ~~asked~~ asked information concerning this thing which they were doing; this was not an order. They ~~for~~ reported.



8

"President - Do you know when they (gangs) began their activity? Do you remember the date?

"Atif Bey - Our detachments?

"President - Yes.

"Atif Bey - With the beginning of the War.

"President - where did they meet with each other?

that the Special Organization is of two categories, the War Office, the second and Progress Party. Is this so?

2 Honor, it is wrong.

Union and Progress organized it.

no organization of two official office connected. There is no secret organization is the truth.

War Office said that parties (of Special organization)

our Honor; it is wrong.

X • President - The fact that you (civil) are involved in this matter demonstrates that from that point of view that the Special Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa) depending upon you was an other different Teşkilât.

" Atif Bey - No, Your Honor; there are dossiers in ^{the} War Office; how we can have their activities and our Signatures, Your Honor? "

X 1. Takvim-i Vakayi, No 3549, session, May 8, 1919, published May 15, pp. 57-58

1

Gangs specially organized
for the annihilation of the Armenian people

" President - When did it end ?

" Yevad Bey - By the end of January 1915. In that way a copy was communicated to armies or to myself.

" President - On what date ?

" Yevad Bey - In 1914.

" President - Was the Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa so abrogated at that date ?

" Yevad Bey - The order issued recommended sending those who were actually present. They sent copies to me as they were communicated to the army commanders.

" President - What was the aspect of the circular ?

" Yevad Bey - in order to organize gangs (çete) the War office dispatched by the department to the first, second, third, fourth^{and} fifth armies; to the commander of Smyrna Section, and to the commanders of armies. It ordered them to send to destination the gangs (çete) whose training was not yet achieved, using the gangs (çete) who were already sent to destination, and

to put an end to the training of gangs (cete);
 hereafter to dispose of such individuals, whether
trained or not, in the bodies of armies or to
 the brigades of the reserve. When this order was
 issued, those who were ready, were sent and
 then an end was put to the training.

"President - What was the date?

"Jevad Bey - January 21, 1915.

"President - The Signature?

"Jevad Bey - Behij on behalf of the army
 secretariat.

"President - Give me the copy -

"Jevad Bey - My defense attorney has a copy.

"President - Give me the copy you read, you
 take the other one.

"Defense attorney Hulusi Bey - Here is it.

"President - To the recording secretary; Read it!

"War office, Secretariat of the army.

"To the Command of the Center.

"Constantinople, January 21, 1915, No 1117.

"Dispatched in reply to the notice No 59,

dated November 17, 1914.

"Concerning the training of the gangs (çete), the following is a copy of the order issued by the War Office addressed to the first, second, third, fourth, fifth armies as well as to the Command of the army in Smyrna section and to their commanders

"Send to the pre-established localities the gangs (çete) whose training is already achieved; give information relative to the service, ~~and~~ whether they have been of those who are sent, the purpose of their service, and whether they have been trained or not, to distribute them according to their training or their distribution in the workers' battalions."

"President. There is no question here relative to these gangs (çete) who have not been trained and not admitted into the organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa). However, this is a question concerning those who have been already trained and admitted in the organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa); There is no clear certitude concerning those who were not admitted. What did you do with those who had not been admitted in the organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa). ?

Did you release them or did you make some ⁴-
other arrangement?

• Yevad Bey - Indeed, they were not admitted
in depots or delivered to the office of the army.

• Defense attorney Hulusi Bey - Your Honor,
there is the continuation.

• President - (Directly to the recording secretary:
Read it. The recording secretary continues the reading):

"2. A special regulation was prepared for the
release [from prisons] of detainees and convicts;
and their expedition to the army and their ser-
vice in accordance with the decision relative to
the proclamation of the ~~of the~~ said regulation
to begin the accomplishment of the task assigned
to them; they will be retained in various houses
of detention; for 2269 individuals as shown in
the notice/herewith enclosed, there is no reason
for the time being, to accomplish the job ^{to which} they were
assigned, to.

"3. 531 individuals who were being trained
for the execution of a special program, were sent
to a pre-established locality because of the lack
of achievement in their training.

"4. Also, 335 individuals from among the
Moslem refugees of Bakou and vicinity, are being
gathered here for the present time to be avail-
able, by order of the third army corps.

" In the name of the secretariat of the army;

Behif.
 " To be seen by the Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa Committee
 and returned, November 25, 1914.

Seen

26 current (November 26, 1914)

To the secretariat for preservation.

"President - There is nothing herein about what you asserted. What kind of operation did you perform? Did you disperse them? Or did you admit them to the Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa)? There is no clear explication in the order relative to their admission^{ssion}, as it appears in the answers to the questions. This is not an order directly issued and communicated by the War Office.

"Mevad Bey - In every case, there would be a reason in the dossiers. Indeed, the Central Command cannot communicate to them an order by the War Office...!"

Based on this document, in comparison with many others, along with other testimonies and official records, the Court Martial reached a conclusion that convicts and criminals released from prisons according to ministerial orders were trained, armed,

1- Takvim-i Vakayi, Turkish Official Journal,

No 3543.

6

mostly disguised in gendarme uniforms. These accompanied the convoys of the Armenian deportees to pre-established massacre sites.

By ministerial order, convicts and criminals were released from prisons, trained and armed, were registered in the Special Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa) gangs (çete) for the extermination of the Armenian deportees and the pillaging of their valuable possessions.

"The notice of the Executive Secretary of Brussa, dated December 19, 1914, addressed to the Central Committee of the Union and Progress Party, reports that criminals and bandits have been registered in the organization of gangs (çete) of Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa. It is true that at the beginning of the Mobilization (July 21, 1914) rumors were disseminated that these gangs (çete) would participate in war, and efforts were made to convince the simple minded people. However, proofs and documents demonstrate that the gangs (çete) in question were organized to massacre and annihilate the convoys of the [Armenian] deportees".²

"So that
"The leading ~~to~~ superiors of the Union and Progress Party (created) under the name of Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa a net work of secret organizations.

2. Takvim-i Nakayi, № 3540, p. 6, col. 2, lines 13-20.

7

" Since the beginning (July 1914) they disseminated rumors that this organization was created to participate in the war efforts, but then, as it is evident in the indictment, this network was used for criminal activity.

" This administrative body of these secret organizations was composed of Dr. Nazim, Dr. Behaeddin Shakir Bey, Atif Bey, Riza Bey, all four members of the Union and Progress Party's Central Committee, and Aziz Bey, Director of the Public Security. Among them Dr. Behaeddin Shakir Bey was sent to lead the forces acting in the Eastern provinces. He established his General Headquarters in Erzerum; Riza Bey was in circulation in the province of Trebizond, while Aziz Bey, Atif Bey and Dr. Nazim Bey began their activity in Constantinople. Mevad Bey, Commandant de Place in Constantinople was assigned the task of ratifying their orders and carrying out their decisions.

This fact is corroborated by a coded telegram addressed to Dr. Behaeddin Shakir Bey, (file No 1, document no 1) which bears the decision and resolution No 150 written as follows: " Punish Halil of Galata by order of the Committee. Report when the deposit is received from the Post office and that it will be distributed

to the people if necessary.»

This document is signed by Aziz, Atif, Nazim and under these signatures is found:
"I am in accord;

Signed / Yevad. » 3

The following expression "get money from traitors," is added below; Armenians were considered traitors.

A document attached to the resolution confirmed the order by the following notice: "The matter will be arranged in Artvin by Behaeddin Shaki Bey personally" and by the coded telegram signed: "A" Ahmed Yevad ... 4

Special Office for the Leaders
of the Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa in the Capital

"To this end the (Union and Progress) Party had the criminals released from prisons and organized Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa in Constantinople, prepared a program relative to the activities of the criminals released from prisons, issued orders and instructions for their activity and admc.

3. Takvim-i Vakiye, № 3540, p. 5, col 1 and 2.

4 -

"

"

"

Administration. The Party assigned members (leaders) of the Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa Aziz Bey, former Director of Public Security; Atif Bey and Dr. Nazım Bey, both members of the Central Committee of the Union and Progress. These 3 leaders formed a general staff. Jevad Bey, Commandant de Place of Constantinople was assigned to ratify their decisions and carry out their orders. For this purpose he distributed considerable amounts of money to the individuals used to carry out the orders and sent them in various areas. Then he gave ciphers and keys of codes to the leaders such as Dr. Behaeddin Shakir Bey. He made military cars available to them. He gave them money in abundance and infernal destructive materials for the execution of the program planned and prepared by the leaders of the Union and Progress Party. 5

In another reliable document evidence is provided to prove that convicts and criminals released from prisons by ministerial order had no qualities and conditions required for gendarmerie or military service

5- Takvim-i Vakayi, No 3540, p. 4; col 2 and p. 5, col. 1.

Major Tervik Bey, commandant de place in Yozgat, and a member of the Special Commission for the release of the convicts and criminals from the prison of Yozgat, reports details to the mutessarif of Yozgat concerning the matter. By order of the Court Martial his report dated February 5, 1919, was communicated to the judge of instruction.

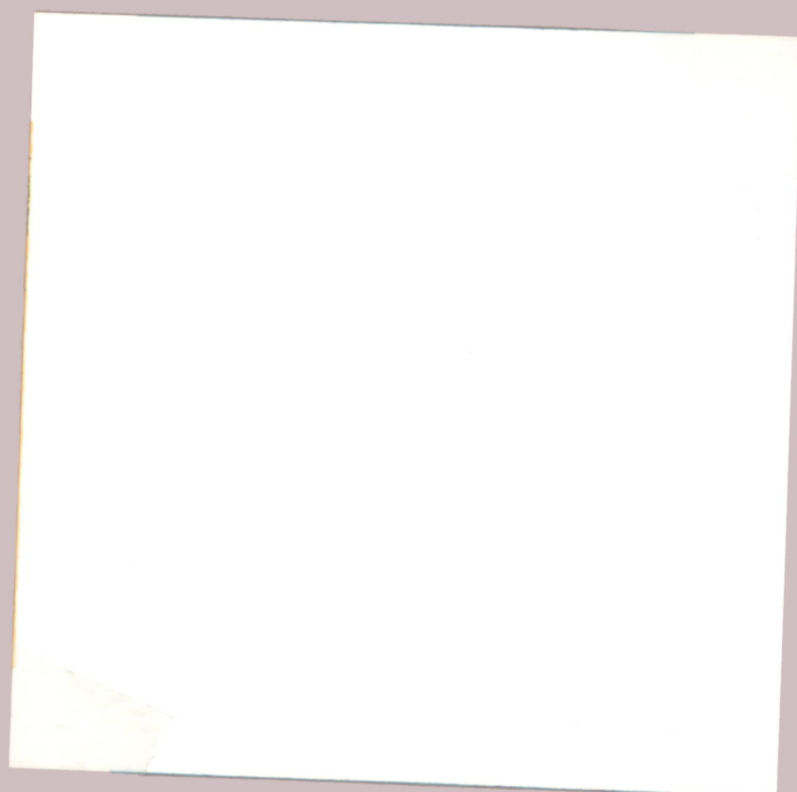
" To the Honorable Governor of Yozgat:

" This is the answer of your notice dated February 1919 without number.

" According to the telegram No 144, May 13, 1915, in which the Military Section Chief of Kayseri communicated the order to send the convicts and criminals released from the prison of Yozgat to the battle front, a commission was formed to examine the legal statute of these condemned criminals.

" The registration took place in the prison of Yozgat. The number of Moslem detainees released was 65. I exempted them and sent them to Chorum May 15, 1915 according to the instructions we received.

6. Colonel Shehabeddin Bey was Acting Commander of the 15th Division in Kayseri.



Report of Mustapha Remzi

To the Governor of Yozgat,
Reply of Mustapha Remzi Bey,
Former Judge of Yozgat.

"I took into consideration your note. I can not remember by name the convicted criminals, released from the prison of Yozgat during the year 1915.

"When Muhieddine Pasha was acting governor of Yozgat, a Commission was formed by order of the Minister of Justice. The Commission was composed of Tervik Bey, former Attorney General of Yozgat; Salim Bey, former President of Military Recruiting Office of Yozgat; and Your Servant Mustapha Remzi.

"After medical examination, the formalities of releasing the aforementioned persons took place as if they were soldiers. Later on, we were aware that these criminals were sent to add to the number of bands in Chorum.

"I ~~don't~~^{not} know whether they were registered as gendarmes, because the formalities were carried out by the Council of Administration.

"Moreover, I am also unaware of the details of their release from prison. What I heard is that Ahmed, President of the Union and Progress

2

Party in Yozgat, and the members, Tevfik Efendi, former Gendarme Commander; Vehbi Bey, former Chief Accountant; Hamza Efendi, former President of the Penal Court; Mehmed Faik Efendi, former Acting Director of the Orphanage; Lutfi Efendi, former Attorney General; Nazmi Efendi, Professor at the Sultanieh College, composed the Commission.

"I am not aware whether there were others, because I was not one of them. I also do not know who composed the Central ~~Committee~~ and Executive Committee in Yozgat.

"Nejati Bey, Executive Secretary of the Union and Progress Party at Ankara, came here 3 times before the deportation and stayed in the house of the Mayor.

"After the departure of the first exiled convoy, he went to Chorum, then came back and stayed one night ^{at} to the house of the Mayor and returned to Ankara.

"After ~~the~~ the departure of the exiled, seated in a carriage with Nejmeddine Bey, Chief of Police of Ankara, he stayed one night at the house of Abdül Yebbazzade' & Mehmed Bey, This is all I know.

February 5, 1919.

signed / Mustapha Remzi, former Judge of
Yozgat.

1- JAJ, No 535. See Krieger, pages 223-225

Turks Angry

1
~~On the date~~ Armenians asked Dr. Beha-
eddin Shakin to use his influence to stop
the Moslem boycott against Armenians. Since
1913 continuing. He answered: "Turks are
very excited and angry because Armenians
provoked the problem of reforms and had
recourse to the intervention of European
powers. While Turks were expecting Armenians
would oppose such an intervention of the po-
wers in the internal affairs of the Nation,
they had to make them understand that Arme-
nians were satisfied with the Turkish admin-
istration on ^{the} one hand, and on the other,
they had to trust the Sublime Porte, always
ready to give them satisfaction to their claims.

"Turks were expecting that the Armenian
Patriarchate and parties would conclude
an agreement directly with the Sublime Porte
in which case the office of Boghos Nubar

Pasha would no longer be useful. Although the Government encourages the boycott, the party cannot necessarily exert pressure on their Moslem co-religionists to have commerce with Armenians. Turks will be excited at the last moment, but when they are angry, they retain rancor for a long time. Armenians must not be scared of being massacred. It will be otherwise if a bomb blows up; the reaction shall be very serious... > 1

The meeting of Onnig Gumshian with Dr. Behaeddin Shakir was in February, 1914. And Dr. Behaeddin Shakir, who was one of the authors of ten-article instructions, sincerely warned the Armenian Committees to cease their fighting against the Union and Progress administration of the Ottoman Empire

1- Puzantion, Armenian daily, February, 15/28, 1914.

and he revealed the Party's plan to exterminate the Armenian people.

The Union and Progress Party, mostly irritated by the separatism of the Armenians and by the intervention of European powers in the internal affairs of the Ottoman Empire, led by Dr. Behaeddin Shakir, Dr. Nazim and Talat prepared and dictated the plan of instructions ^{often articles} at Nur-el-Osmanié, General Headquarters of the Union and Progress Party, Constantinople.

Dr. Behaeddin Shakir went to the provinces and organized the gangs (fete) of the Special Organization for the extermination of the Armenian population.

It is evident that the ten-article instructions were dispatched as circulars in sealed envelopes to all provincial authorities. 2

2. Verchin Looz, Wednesday, March 26, 1919.
Report of General Vehib Pasha, JAT, No 172-h 182.

Secret Orders

1
Eyewitness Mehmed Ali Bey, Governor of Scutari, officially answered the questions of the President in the Court Martial:

"The official order which was issued concerning the deportation of the Armenians. However, later on, secret orders were dispatched; the Armenian deportees were massacred, not ^{all} ~~completely~~, but ⁱⁿ ~~partially~~."

Governor Kemal Bey's official deposition may be considered as a revelation ^{because} when answering the question of the President of Inquiry Commission, ^{he} corroborated the existence of top secret documents relative to the deportation and massacre of the Armenian people.

"Question: When and where were the Armenians of your district deported?"

-
1. Tamamag, March 29, 1919, p. 2, col. 2, 15th session of the Court Martial.

"Answer. They were deported to Der Zor, on July and August 1915 according to the orders I received.

"Question. From whom did you receive these orders? Are these orders preserved with you?

"Answer. The order to deport the Armenians to Der Zor, is in the governorate of Yozgat. I did not keep this order. The orders relative to the deportation are so much numerous that it is impossible to remember them."

"Question. Did the governor of Yozgat ever communicated ^{to} you orders of deportation, on his own initiative or did he receive orders from the Vali of Ankara who were at that time The Mutessarif of Yozgat and the Vali of Ankara?

"Answer. The order was in conformity with the instructions of Ankara. At the period the Mutessarif of Yozgat was Zema.

Bey and the Vali of Ankara was ³
Atif Bey..

"I think the documents relative to the deportation are in part preserved in Yozgat.

"As to the documents which cannot be found there were only those documents which had to be burned after having them read.

"Question. Who gave the order to burn the documents after having them read, of which (documents) you revealed the existence?

"Answer. These orders were dispatched by the Department of the Interior to the government of the province [Ankara].

"Question. Were these orders dispatched open or coded?

"Answer. The orders relative to the deportation were communicated by the [Central]

Government, all were coded... 2

Session XIII, on March 24, 1919, the Prosecutor Sami Bey read in the Court, a document in the presence of Governor Kemal Bey very deeply involved in the extermination of the Armenians of Yozgat district;

"Kemal, in his capacity of Mutessarif, of Yozgat, wrote a letter.

"Here is the envelope. ^Aas you see it, this envelope bears 3 red seals and contains the following mention: This letter must be delivered as soon as you arrive ^{at} ~~to~~ the village of Battal, to Bakirizade Mahmu ~~Abd~~ Abdullah and Mehmed Efendis.

"The envelope must be opened after having registered the date, hour and the unsealing of the letter.

2- Deposition of Governor Kemal Bey on 15 and 16 December 1918, JAT w489-w494. See Krieger, pp. 404-421.

"The sealed envelope contained two letters, one addressed to Shukri Chavush (caporal), gendarme commander.

"The second letter was signed by ~~the~~ Vehbi Bey, chief accountant, who gave order^{red} that the deported Armenians be stripped of all their possessions.

"These effects should then be transported to the town of Yozgat."

The prosecutor then concluded: "The effects and possessions of these Armenians and girls were already left in the town, ~~from whence~~^{whence} they were deported, and consequently when it is said that their effects should be transported to Yozgat, it simply meant these girls were to be killed, their effects collected and brought to the town [Yozgat]."

3. La Renaissance, No 97, March 25, 1919.

Tamanag, March 25, 1919.

Jagadamard, March 25, 1919.

Nor Ghiank, March 25, 1919.

Mazhar Bey, President of the Inquiry Commission, asked more questions of Governor Kemal Bey, who in his answers revealed that the Executive Secretaries and Delegates of the Union and Progress Party communicated secret orders and instructions to the governors in the provinces.

Question - Did Nejatî Bey, Executive Secretary of the Union and Progress Party at Ankara, come to Boghazlian before and during the deportations of the Armenians?

Answer - I know that Nejatî Bey, Executive Secretary of the Union and Progress Party at Ankara, came before the deportation of the Armenians to Yozgat, communicated oral secret instructions concerning the deportation of the Armenians and held a meeting with the members of the Union and Progress at Yozgat as well as with the officials of the Union and Progress, with the Special Organization (Teshkilât-ı Mahsusa) and ^{had} consultations with them, but he did not come to Boghazlian.

consultations with them, but he did not come to Boghazlian.

"During the deportation of the Armenians in Boghazlian, Cemil Bey, Executive Secretary of the Union and Progress Party at Kayseri, came to Boghazlian." 773

Col. Jevad Bey succeeded Halil Pasha, uncle of Enver. He had to handle the directions and activities of the Special Organization at Constantinople. First of all he ^{tried} to deny before the Court Martial the existence of secret orders concerning the activity of the gangs in the Teşkilât-ı Mahsuba. Then the President of the Court Martial ordered the recording secretary to read the confidential telegrams, especially a top secret one, in which Col. Jevad Bey issued orders to return back the original of the

3. Governor Kemal Bey's deposition was registered on December 15 and 16, 1918.

Ser. Krieger, p. 404-421.

telegrams after having read them.

«President - There is a post-scriptum at the end below the telegram: « The originals of such important telegrams have to be released and preserved [in the files of the Special Organization], you [Jevad Bey] said.

«Jevad Bey - How? Your Honor,

«President - Read it. [The recording secretary] reads: « Special Organization. the originals of telegrams have to be preserved according to the regulations!

4 8 current [December 8, 1914].

Signed / Jevad. » 4

«President - Is not the handwriting yours as you have endorsed?

«Jevad Bey - The handwriting is mine, the writing of the telegram is not mine.

«President - [The writing] you endorsed?

4. Takvim-i Vakiyi, No 3554, 5th session, May 14, 1919, published May 21, 1919.

9
"Gevad Bey - I think so, it is mine.

"President - Don't you ^{not} recognize your own handwriting?

"Gevad Bey - I think so, Your Honor.

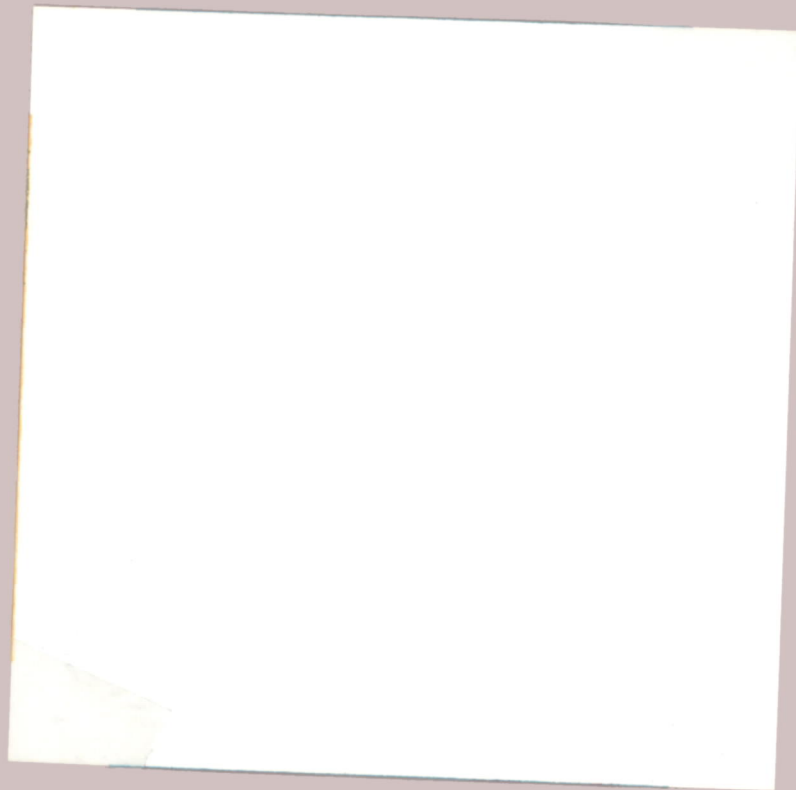
"President - Show him once more.

"Gevad Bey. - This is my handwriting, the writing, etc. of the telegram is not mine, Your Honor.

"President. To take out such important documents, shows that there was no order in the files and dossiers.

"This draws the special attention of the Court Martial, would you explain this?" 5

5- Takvim-i Vakayi, No 3554, published May 21, 1919; 5th session, May 14, 1919; p. 68, col. 1 and 2.



1
Ministry of Internal Affairs,
Department of Civil Inspection

To the Governorate of Marzivan,
Province of Sivas,

Reply to the telegram of July 15, 1915.

~~Converted to Islamic faith may remain~~ ^{girls}
under age of twenty and boys under ten ^{years} of age,
women left alone, and ~~for the~~ certain artisans
needed for the country, who are not involved in

Armenian Committees, with the understanding that they
may stay if ~~he~~ converted to ^{the} Islamic faith, may stay.

Not a person beyond the above, bearing
^{an} Armenian name, may remain.

To the Subaltern Authorities
of Sivas

1. Register the names and birthplaces of
those Armenians not involved in the Committees,
who may be useful to our country, with the con-
dition ~~to~~ ^{ing} convert them to the Islamic faith.

1. JAJ, No 7293.

2. Armenian Artisans who do not possess a special permit (vesika) from the Army Command and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, must not remain; all have to leave.

3. Prepare and send very soon a complete report concerning the number of children, women, girls, orphans and persons delivered to Moslem trust worthy homes for services, marriage and education,

Instruction of HOJAS.

"As regards the Armenians, few of those survived the general expulsion, but only during the past few days such as remained have been forced to embrace the ^{Muslim} ~~Mussulman~~ religion, ^{those in} refused to do so being punished by exile. This measure is said to have been taken in retaliation for the assistance lent by the Armenians to the Russians and which contributed materially to the decisive victory reported to have been gained by these latter in the Caucasus. It is stated that the Armenians will be required to study their adopted faith [Mohammedan] under the instruction of hojas [Moslem teachers] and will also be required to intermarry with the Turks. This method of securing the disappearance of the Armenian race is probably made in Germany inasmuch as the Turks would ~~probly~~ probably have preferred a quicker and more effective method." 1

1. National Archives, Washington D.C.
867.00/786, from consular agent Charles Allen
at Constantinople, page 2, dated April 3, 1916,
to the Hon. The Secretary of State, Washington.

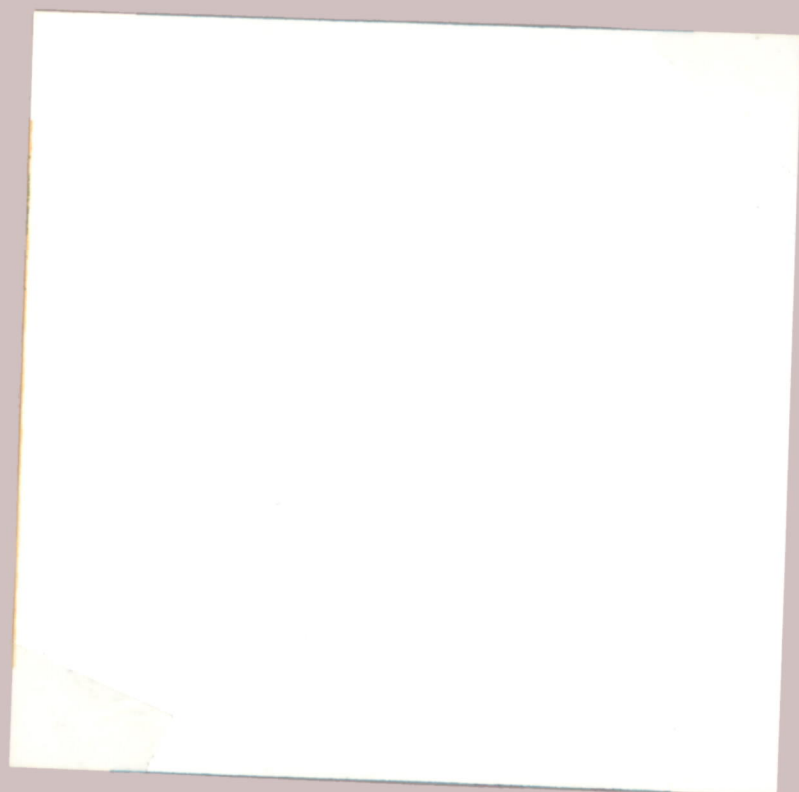
Glorious Pages in Modern Armenian History

3

"As I am not writing", said the American Ambassador, "the story of sieges and battles, I cannot describe in detail the numerous acts of individual heroism, the cooperation of Armenian women, the ardor and energy of the Armenian children, the self-sacrificing zeal of the American missionaries, especially Dr. Ussher and his wife and Miss Grace H. Knapp, and the thousand other circumstances that made this terrible month one of the most glorious pages in modern Armenian history. The wonderful thing about it is that the Armenians triumphed... Doctor Ussher, the American medical missionary whose hospital at Van was destroyed by bombardment, is authority for the statement that, after driving off the Turks, the Russians began to collect and to create the bodies of Armenians who had been murdered in the province, with the result that 55,000 bodies were burned." 4

4 - Ambassador Morgenthau's Story, by
Henry Morgenthau, p. 299-300

• I have told this story of the "Revolution" in Van not only because it marked the first stage in this organized attempt to wipe out a whole nation, but because these events are always brought forward by the Turks as a justification of their subsequent crimes. As I shall relate, Enver, Talaat, and the rest, when I appealed to them on behalf of the Armenians, invariably intanced the "revolutionists" of Van as a sample of Armenian treachery.



1

Proceedings of Secret Instructions

In accordance with the
According to *a* official primary source documents, secret instructions for the extermination of the Armenian race were communicated personally to the government officials and military officers, by Executive Res Secretaries and Executive Delegates of the Union and Progress Party.
Mazhar Bey, Governor General of Ankara, had already received ~~received~~ secret orders from the Department of the Interior to deport the Armenians living in his province. However, he apparently seemed to ignore the official

orders and instructions. 1

Atif Bey,^a Member of the Central Committee as well as a civil member of the executive Committee of the Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa in Constantinople, was delegated by the Central Committee of CUP to Ankara apparently to examine the administration of the Party in the province of Ankara, but in reality he had to accelerate the deportation and extermination of the Armenian people in Ankara the

1. Radi Bey's testimony is considered by Remzi Bey, Imperial Prosecutor, as primary source evidence, in his official indictment of April 12, 1919. See: KRIEGER pages 387-395, from Takvim-i Vakayi No 3540.

province of Ankara. 2

Atif Bey was in Ankara since June 6, 1915. He met ~~with~~ Mazhar Bey and communicated ^{to} him the order ~~the order~~ of the Central Committee CUP as well as the instructions of the Department of the Interior Not only ~~to~~ to deport ~~it~~ but also to exterminate the Armenians of the province of Ankara.

Mazhar Bey said to Atif Bey: ^{cannot} ~~can't~~ do what you told me to carry out. I leave my chair (of Governor)

2. Testimony of Radi Bey; op. cit. p. 387-395,
 official testimony of Shakir Bey, Deputy
 for Yozgat, ⁺ op. cit. p. 446-448, and
Takvim-i Vakiye No 3554.

4^{init}
you come to seat ~~on~~ and do it yourself. 3

Radi Mazhar Bey was dismissed
and Atif Bey, as acting Vali of Ankara,
carried out the order he communicated
to Mazhar Bey. 3

On July 15, 1915, Atif Bey despatched
a telegram to Jemal Bey, Mutesarif of
Yozgat^t to arrest Armenians of the district,
especially members of the Committees,
professors, pharmacists, doctors, tradesmen,
lawyers, dangerous individuals, etc. 4

3- Krieger, op. cit. p. 289.

JAT, No W251-W252.

Op. Cit, p. 119.

4- JAT. No A 612. Radi Bey's testimony,

Turkish text: « Bir gün Mazhar Bey Atif Bey'e hitaben;
dediklerini ben yapamam. Ben sandalyadan kalktım.
Siz gelin yaparsınız. »

and deport them under escort to the direction of Der Zor. 5

In agreement with the recruiting office Major Salim Bey, Commandant de Place in Yozgat⁵, and Jemal Bey, Mutesarif of the district, began to carry out the order received from Atif Bey, and notable Armenians were imprisoned.

The Governor and Major Salim formed a Commission to collect from the notable Armenians in custody money, and valuables.

5- Op. cit. p. 187. To be deported under escort was tentamant to be killed on the high way.

Atif Bey wrote a letter to governor Te-mal Bey, and sent it with a messenger, Nejatî Bey, Executive Secretary of the Union and Progress Party at Ankara.

The letter was an invitation to the governor of Yozgad~~ı~~ to collaborate in agreement with Nejatî Bey by organizing the deportation of the Armenians from the district of Yozgad~~ı~~.

Nejatî came from Ankara to Yozgad~~ı~~ on July 20, 1915. He was the guest ⁱⁿ at the home of Mehmed Bey, Mayor of Yozgad~~ı~~ and President of the Club of Union and Progress. He had consultations with Gendarmerie~~ı~~ Commander Tervik Bey. He held meetings with the Party leaders and assembly members at the City Hall.

He met Jemal Bey in the governor's office. He discussed the deportation of Armenians from ^{the} ~~Yozgat~~ district.

He told him That the deportation was only (an ^{a pretext} apparent face) while the real purpose of the Central Committee and the department of the interior was the extermination of the Armenian race. 6

Governor Jemal Bey replied to Nejati asking him to deliver the letter signed by Atif Bey. Nejati showed him only the signature.

December 12, 1918

6- Testimony of Governor Jemal Bey, JAT, No W492. Krieger, op. cit. pp. 122-127.

written report of Edib Bey, JAT, No W534, op. cit. Krieger, pp. 128-129. Official testimony of Governor Kemal Bey, JAT, No W589-W594, op. cit, pp. 404-421.

The governor told the Executive Secretary that he had ^{no} ~~not~~ any official qualification, to communicate such official secret orders and instructions. 7

With Mayor Ahmed Efendi, Commander Tervik Bey and others, Nejali made arrangements for the extermination of the Armenians; then he went to Chorum.

↖ Governor Jemal and Commander Salim departed on July 26, 1915 the first convoy

7. Report of Major Salim Bey, JAJ, No W574-W577. Op. cit. Krieger, pp. 345-364. Photographic reproduction: pp. 339-343.

Testimony of Hilmi Bey, Director of Telegraph office in Yozgat^t, JAJ, No h 718, op. cit. pp. 192-193.

composed of 472 men, the Primate Bishop Nerses Danielian, his priests, intellectuals, professors, doctors, pharmacists, lawyers, tradesmen, etc. 8

Without previous authorization of Governor Jemal Bey, Gendarme Commander Tevfik accompanied the convoy. At Beg Yurdu, nearest to the border of Sivas Province, ~~Tevfik~~ Commander Tevfik ordered the deportees of the first convoy to dig a large grave. Prior to ^{The beginning of} ~~begin~~ the massacre of 472 Armenians, there arrived on horseback Lieut. Captain Tevad Bey, ~~delega~~ messenger of the Governor,

8. JAT, No R 618.

Op. Cit. Krieger, pp. 188-189.

10

(^{who} and) called back Commander Tevfik.

The convoy of deportees continued to walk in the province of Sivas. 9

From Chorum, on ^{the} ~~Yozgat~~ line, Nejadi Bey (^{made?} had) a long distance call to Sivas. He called on ^{the} line Ghani Bey, Executive Secretary of the Union and Progress Party in Sivas and instantly asked him to insure the eternal rest of the most deserving Armenians of the first ^{deported} ~~convoy~~ from Yozgat. 10

Four hundred Seventy-two Armenians arrived

9. Report of Salim Bey, JAJ, No 5574-5577

Opus Cit. pp. 345-361. 341-374.

10- JAJ, No 5519.

Op. cit. Krieger, pp. ¹⁹¹⁻192-193. Report of Hilmi Bey, Director of ^{the} Telegraph and Telephone Office, Yozgat. JAJ, No 5618.

11
ON August 6, 1915 in the Valley of Kardash-
lar, four hour South from the City of Sivas.

Gangs and criminals of the Teşkilât-ı
Mahsusa were expecting the convoy of depor-
tees at the valley of Kardashlar. ^{There} They were
~~there~~ ^{massacred} by order of Muammer Bey, Vali
of Sivas.

Four hundred seventy-two men were
tied together four by four. The Çete-gangs
massacred them and ^{threw} throw the corpses into the
river. 11

-
- 11 - Op. cit. p. 185. and 394,
Report of Major Salim Bey, JAJ, No 574-577,
Photographic reproduction: pp. 341-344.
- Questionnaire to Tefik Bey: JAJ, No 5324,
Op. Cit. pp. 365-369.

Nejati reported to Atif Bey, on his mission in Yozgat^t and Chorum^U.

The acting (^{Vali} Governor General) of Ankara dismissed from office Jemal Bey, Mutesarif of Yozgat^t on August 5, 1915. Later on Commander Salim Bey was dismissed too. 12

Kemal Bey, Kaymakam of Boghazlian, was promoted acting Mutesarif of Yozgat^t as he had already^{had} 3,660 Armenians massacred. 13

12. Official Testimony of Jemal Bey, Dec. 12, 1918, JAJ, No W494-W495.

Op. cit. pp. 123-127.

13. JAJ, No W271-W272, Questionnaire to Colonel Shehabeddin. Op. cit. pp. 381-385.

Kemal Bey arrived to his new office of Governor in Yozgat~~†~~ on August 6, 1915. Immediately he began to organize the extermination of ^{the} Armenians still living in the district ^{under} of his new jurisdiction.

Before all, he dismissed the former officials and assigned executive directors to control and conduct the massacre of the Armenians, who had to be driven to previously fixed massacre sites. 14

Quotation: "At the arrival of Kaymakam Kemal Bey in Yozgat~~†~~, Osman Kiazim Bey was dismissed from his office of Mayor in Kizil Koca, and

14. Report of Salim Bey, JAT. No 574-577, Op. Cit. Krieger, pp. 405-421. Official Testimony of Kemal Bey: JAT, No 5494-5495, op. cit. pp. 125-127.

and assistant gendarme commander Nouman
 was assigned the task of massacring Armenians
 of ~~Sorgun~~^U village; Riza Chavush, brother of
 Ahmed Efendi, Mayor of ~~Yozgat~~^T, was assigned
 the control of the massacre of Armenians in
 Saray; for the massacres to be carried out in the
 Keller area fixed as massacre site; for the di-
 rection and control were assigned the follo-
 wing officials: Director of Orphans in ~~Yoz-~~
~~gat~~^T: Bakirji Haji Mahmud, Tewfikzade
 Abdullah Shevket, Gendarme ~~Major~~^{Captain}
 Shukri, Daghistanli Ismail, Ferid Efendi,
 Mayor of Akdagh; Ali Riza Bey, Judge in
 Boghazlian and provisional Kaymakam
 of the same county; the control of the
 massacres to be carried out in the massacre-

site of Tashpınar was entrusted to captain Shucri, Ismail, Ahmed Chavush, Dervish Bey, son of Chapanzade Isa Bey. 15

Commander Salim Bey's conclusion :

"They all accomplished their duty in a perfect consciousness, obeying the orders they received from their superiors." 16

For such organization for the extermination of the Armenian people, Governor Kemal had received top secret orders and instructions as he officially confessed in his deposition before the Inquiry Commission on December

15 and 16, Report of Commander Salim Bey, JAJ, No 5474-5477, Op. cit., pp. 352-353.

Testimony of Shakir Bey, Deputy for Yozgat, JAJ, No 5494, Op. cit., pp. 446-448.

15 and 16, 1918:

Transliteration

Translation

(Sual). Yozgad kaza.

(Question) - How many

Sinin yedi. Sekiz bin

of the seven-eight thou-

Ermeni nüfusunun ne

land of Armenians li-

miktari sizin zamanında

ving in the district of

ve ne miktari selefiniz

Yozgad^t were deported

zamanında f tehcir olup

by your predecessor and

nup tehcire müteallik

how many by you ^{while you were} being

Ne gibi evrak ve vesai-

in office?

kiniz vardır?

(Cevap) - Gerek za-

(Answer) - I ^{cannot} re-

manı acizede ve gerek

member the exact num-

selefin zamanında

ber of the Armenians

tehcir edilen Ermenilerin

deported by my prede-

miktari hatırı acizede

cession, as well as the

deyildir, tehçire mü. number of the Armenians
 teallik evrakın bir who were deported when
 kısmı Yozgadda mev. I was in office.
 cüddur, Zannederim I know that documents
 bulunmayacak aksam and files relative to the
 ise, yalnız okunduktan deportation are partly
 sonra yakılması emir preserved in Yozgad. Are
 olundugundan bittabi Not preserved ^{are} only the
 mevcut olmadan evr. orders which had to be
 mirdir. burned after having ^{been} read
 them by order of the sender.

(Sual) - Beyan ettiği. (Question) - Who gave the
 niz emirlerin okunduk. order to burn the orders
 tan sonra yakılmasını after having read them and
 kim emretmiştir? which one of you revealed
 their existence?

(Cevap) - Vilâyetten (Answer) - They were
 Dahiliye Nezaretinin dispatched to the Gover-
 Norate
 n by order of the Depart-

isa'arına atfen emriydi.

ment of the Interior.

(Sual) - Bu evamir

(Question) - were these

şifreli mi yoksa açık mı

orders dispatched open

geliyordu?

or coded?

(Cevap) - Tehcir hak.

(Answer) - The orders

kinda hükümetin verdiği

concerning the deportation

emirler umumiyetle

dispatched by the Govern-

şifreliydi.

ment were all coded.

The Inquiry Commission asked
questions to governor Kemal Bey and Major
Tevfik Bey.

The questions were prepared in accordance
with the official documents.

Documentary evidence proved that the term
serketmek (to deport) was used to mean
to murder.

Transliteration

Kemal Beye

Okuyun, dinlesinler.

İşte tahrihatta vu-

kuat cereyan ettiği

veçhile hikâye edilmiş,

ve bunun münderecât-ı

Boğazlıyan Tendarma

Translation

To Kemal Bey:

Read, let them hear.

Here is the document,

Events are reported

under this aspect, and

the communication

Signed by Hulusi

Takım Kumandanı

Gendarmerie Detach-

Hulusi imzalı tahriat

ment Commander of

muadereatiyla müfit

Boghazlian makes sense.

bulunmuştur.

According to the

İşbu tahriat anla-

significance of this

sıldığına göre, sevk-

document, the expression

edildi tabiri imha edildi

was deported means

demek imiş.

was murdered. The

imha etmek mana-

expression we deported

sında olmak üzere

was used ^{to} in the signi-

sevkettik tabiri kum-

ficanse of we killed.

lanılmıştır. 1

1. JAJ, No W298 and W324.

1

In many other Turkish official documents expressions are used indifferently to designate deportation (tehcir), massacre (taktir), extermination (imha), as well as mahalli müretteblerine sevketmek, to deport to the area of their locality designated, menfalarına sevkedilmek, to deport them to their destination.

The Inquiry Commission ^{put} asked questions to Governor Kemal and Gendarmerie Commander Tervik using the above said expressions.

„Mahalli müretteblerine sevkedildi”
demek ne demektir?

„Bundan maksat katl ve itlaf edildi
demekmidir?”

„To deport to the locality of their destination.” What does it mean?

" Does this mean to massacre and to exterminate? "

Many coded telegrams used such expressions:

<u>Transliteration</u>	<u>Translation</u>
Aded 148.	No 148.
Şifre Mahlulu	Decoded Telegram.
Bu gece Ermenilerden yüzotuzdört kişinin menfalarına terk edil- dikleri mârûzdur,	I have the honor to report that to night 134 Armenians were driven to their destination
8 Temmuz 331.	July 8, 1915.
Onbeşinci Fırka Kumandan Vekili:	Acting Commander of the Fifteenth Division;
Şehabettin. 1	Shehabeddin.

1. JAT, No W 324.

The same telegram was dispatched to Halil Rejai Bey, Acting Army Commander, in Ankara, who, in turn, sent ^{it} on July 9, 1915 to the Supreme Command, Constantinople.

Captain Mustafa, Commandant de Place of Boghazlian, communicated by coded telegram ^{Fifth} to the Army Command, Ankara, that fourteen Armenians were driven to the place of their exile "müretteblerine". This term was used to mean that 14 Armenians were simply killed on the high way.

Transliteration

Şifre Mahlulu

Numara 16.

Bu gece kasaba ve

Translation

Decoded Telegram

No 16.

I have the honor to

kuzada elde edilen mu- inform you that fourteen
 zir Ermenilerden 14 Suspect Armenians arres-
 kişi müretteblerine ted in the district and
 terkedildiği mâruzdur. surrounding villages were
 22 Temmuz 331. deported to their destination.

Bogazliyan Şube Reisi:
 Mustafa. I

July 22, 1915
 Commandant de Place
 of Boghazlian:
 Mustafa.

The same day, July
 22, 1915, Colonel Halil
 Rejai Bey, Acting Commander of the Fifth Army
 Corps, Ankara, asked Captain Mustafa Bey
 a question ^{about} (by) the following coded tele-
 gram:

1- JAJ, No W511.

TransliterationTranslation

A ded 3011.

No 3011.

Boğazlıyan Şube
Riyasetine.To the Command of
Boghazlian.Merkuminin ne müret-
tebâtı olarak nereye
sevkedildiklerinin izahı
inbası.I urge you to explain
why and where the above-
mentioned individuals
were deported?

22 Temmuz 331.

July 22, 1915.

Beşinci Kolordu
Ahşî Asker Heyeti Reisi.
Halil Recai. 1President of the Recruiting
Office of the Fifth Army.
Halil Rejai.The same day in reply to the question above-
mentioned, Captain Mustafa dispatched the1-JAJ, No W511.

following coded telegram:

Transliteration

Translation

Aded 17.

No 17.

Şifre Mahlulu

Decoded Telegram

Cevap 22 Temmuz 331

Reply to the telegram

ve 3011 numaraya;

No 3011, dated July 22, 1915;

Mezkiir Emeniler

I have the honor to

muzir olduklarından

inform that the above-men-

dolay, Jandarma Çavuşu -

tioned individuals were

Şu Hüseyin Avni vedaye.

Killed by care of the gen-

tiyle katledildikleri

darme Husein Chavush

mâruzdur.

because they were suspect.

22 Temmuz 331.

July 22, 1915.

Boğazlıyan Şube Reisi:

Commandant de Place

Mustafa. 1

Boğazlıyan:

Mustafa.

1- JAJ, No W53¹¹.

As the Turkish official documents provide clear and efficient evidence that commonly deportation was ^a tantamount to extermination, the President of the Turkish Extraordinary court Martial urges Provincial Authorities to mail originals or legalized copies:

Transliteration

Translation

Ankara Vilâyetine

Telegram to the Gover-

Telegraf.

norate of Ankara.

Boğazlıyan Şube Reisi	We insistantly urge you
Mustafa Efendi tarafın-	to get from the Army Com-
dan Beşinci Kolorduya	mand and mail to us
şekilmiş olan 18 Numa-	by the first currier the
ralı 14 Temmuz 331 tarihli	register that contains
şifre mahfuzunda	the names of more than

beyan olunan bin beş fifteen hundred Armenians
 yüzden fazla mektûlün massacred as it is repor-
 esarnisini havi defterin ted by the Commandant de
 Kolordudan bilahs Place of Boghazlian Mus-
 ilk postayle irsalı tafa Efendi in his telegram
 ehemmiyetle rica No 18 dated July 14, 1915
 olunur.

addressed to the Fifth Army
 Command.

22 Şubat 335.

February 22, 1919.

Tehcir Divan-ı Harbi
 örfi Reisi:

President of the Special
 Court Martial:

Mahmut Hayret. 1

Mahmoud Hayret.

Captain Mustafa reports from Boghazlian
 on July 23, 1915, to Colonel Shehabeddin Bey that

1. JAT, No W 501 and W 266.

thirty-Six hundred Sixty Armenians of Boghazlian and villages were massacred by order of Kemal Bey, Kaymakam of Boghazlian.

The Inquiry Commission urged Kemal to explain the fact.

Transliteration

Adet 207.

Şifre Mahlulu
Ankara Kolunda Kumandanlığına
Şimdiye kadar Boğaz-

liyan kasabasıyla Kurası

dahilinde bulunan

Ermenilerinin Boğazlıyan

Kaymakam vasıtasıyla

üç bin altıyüz altmış Erme-

ninin katledilmiş olduğu

Translation

No. 207.

Decoded Telegram

Decipher: Army Com-

mander, Ankara.

I have the honor to

inform you that accor-

ding to the telegram

of the Commander of Place

thirty-Six hundred Sixty

Şube riyasetinin 19'22-6 Armenians of Boghar-
telgrafisini atfen mâ- lian were massacred
ruzdur. up to date by order of

23 Temmuz 331. the Governor.

Firka Onbeş Kumandan July 23, 1915.

Vekili: Acting Commander of the

Şahabettin. 1 Fifteenth Division:

Shehabeddin.

By order of the President, the recording
Secretary of the Court Martial read the above
mentioned two telegrams Friday, February 21, 1919
at the 9th Session in the presence of Governor
Kemal and Major Commander Tevfik.

1- JAT, No W255.

11 Mazhar Bey, President of the ~~the~~ ^{had already} ✓
The Inquiry Commission asked Kayma-
governor
Kam Kemal Bey on Dec. 16, 1918
the following question:

Transliteration
Kemal Bey:

Sual: - 23 Temmuz 331

Translation

To Kemal Bey:

Tarihine kadar Boğazlıyan Question: - You had three
kasabasıyla karyelerinde ty. six hundred and sixty
senin üç bin altı-yüz Armenians of Boghazlian
altmış Ermeni katlet- and villages massacred
tirmiş olduğun Fırka as of July 23, 1915, accor-
Kumandanı Şehabettin ding to the decoded tele-
Beyin Kolorduya çektiği gram dispatched to the
207 numaralı 23 Temmuz Army Command on July
331 tarihli şifre mahlu- 23, 1915 by Division Com-
lunda muhazzerdir. mander Shehabeddin Bey.

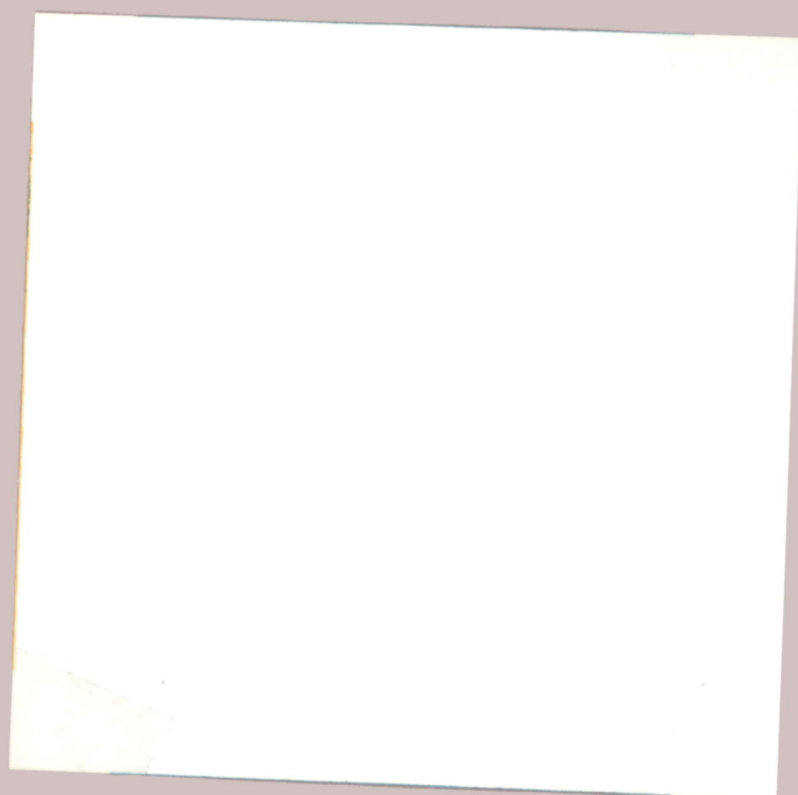
İşbu miktar ancak

This number is only the

18

23 Temmuz'a kadar Number of Armenians
katledilen Ermenilerin massacred up to July 23,
miktaridir. 1 1915.

1-JAJ, No W541.



1
Collection
of Official Documents

The Turkish Inquiry Commission and The Turkish Extraordinary Martial Court, as well as respective Departments, especially the Department of Post and Telegraph, collected Turkish official documents concerning the deportations and massacres of the Armenian people living in Turkey for centuries and even prior to the establishment of Turks in Asia Minor.

1- Barsam Bey, Governor of Mardin, State of Diarbekir, delivered on December 17, 1918, to the ^{Chairman} ~~President~~ of the Inquiry Commission in Mardin, a telegram relative to the massacres organized and carried out by order of Salih Zeki Bey, Mutessarif of Der-Zor, and Seven other official documents to be transmitted to the Chairman of the Inquiry Commission at Constantinople. In the

telegram he asked if the abovementioned documents had arrived ^{to} ~~at their~~ destination. 1

2. Azmi Bey, Vali of Ankara, answering on ~~January~~ ^{Februa} ry 9, 1919, the telegram of the President of the Martial Court dated February 2, 191~~8~~⁹, informed him that, the certified copies of documents had been sent by mail.

The Governor General of Ankara officially had mailed officially certified copies of the telegrams exchanged between Akif Bey, Acting Vali of Ankara, Miralay Halil Rejai Bey, Acting Commander of the Fifth Army Corps, in Ankara, and Major General Shehabeddin Bey, Acting Commander of the Fifteenth Division, at Kayseri, and Jemal Bey, Mutesarif of ~~Yozgat~~^{Yozgat}, and ^{Captain} Mustafa Bey, Military Commander of the Section of Boghazlian. 2

3. The First Secretary of Sivas sent on December 13, 1918, to the President of the Inquiry Commission at Constantinople, officially certified copies

of sixteen telegrams exchanged between Talaat Bey, in his quality of Minister of the Interior, Muammer Bey, Governor General of Sivas, and other high ranking officials of Erzinjan, Shabin-Karahisar, and Aghvanis. The telegram of The Minister of Internal Affairs is dated November 8, ^enineteen ~~x~~ Fourteen. 3

The Police Commissioner of Sivas, according to the Police register of the State, established that, Muammer Bey, Vali of Sivas, in a secret order to assassinate Msgr. Sahak Odabashian and massacre the convoys of Armenian deportees, had ordered ~~the~~ to release on November 1914, from the prison of Pinyan, one hundred twenty-four criminals ^{SERVING} (purging) various sentences. One of these criminals, Mahir Bey of Zara (Sivas), sentenced to fifteen years ^{at} of hard labor for murder, ^{and} ~~but~~ was released from prison, and who, killed ~~it~~ on De-

Killed 4

cember 18, 1914, ^{Killed 4} Mgr. Sahak Odabashian in the ~~area~~ of Aghvanis village, while he was travelling to the ~~Ezzinjan~~, Armenian diocese of Erzinjan.

The Police Commissioner also sent to the Chairman of the Inquiry Commission the official documents concerning the aforesaid events and a list of 124 criminals released from the prison of Pinyan, who were assigned the task of massacring the Armenian deportees. 4

5- The Governor of Yozgad⁺, in response to the telegram^{No 2851} dated February 2, 1919, received from the Presidency of the Martial Court at Constantinople, sent an official despatch stating that on May 15, 1915, sixty-five criminals were released from the prison of Yozgad⁺. The latter had been given arms and trained at Chorum, State of Ankara, and were registered in the ranks of the Special Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa) and directed to massacre the Armenian deportees on the highways. Also, he had transmitted to the President of the Martial

Court the list of ^{the} above mentioned sixty-five criminals released by a special Commission from the prison, with attached documents. 5

6. The indictment of the Attorney General at the Court Martial, dated April 12, 1919, ~~was~~ was read on April 27, 1919 in the Court ⁱⁿ at the presence of both ^{war} cabinet members (1913-1918) and the leaders of the Union and Progress Party. The indictment quoted many Turkish official documents, which definitely establish and corroborate that Turkish authorities and Young Turk leaders had deliberately organized and carried out the massacre of the Armenian people.

"... July 1914 ... immediately after troop movements, They [Talaat, Enver and Jemal] began their work of putting into effect their secret projects. They organized Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa, which were composed mostly of criminals released from the prisons. Through these

groups of criminals ^{There} were formed the gangs which had very special orders and instructions... 6

" It is true that at the beginning of the mobilization [July 1914], the news was spread that these ~~gangs~~ gangs were to participate in the war, and an effort was made to convince the naive people of the truth of this statement.

" But the evidence is clear from the ~~proves~~ documentary proof concerning these gangs, that the aforesaid ^{gangs} criminals were formed for the purpose of massacring and exterminating the convoys of the [Armenian] deportees... 6

7- The members and leaders of the Union

6- The indictment of the Attorney General is published in the Turkish Official Bulletin journal Takvim-i Vakayi No 3540.

and Progress Party had prepared in the Headquarters of Constantinople and the provinces a Special Organization (Teşkilât-ı Mahsusa).

The President of The Martial Court at Constantinople despatched a Telegram dated February 8, 1919, to the Governor of Yozgat^t to open an investigation concerning the discussion between Yacoub Hoja of Pasha Village, Boghazlian district, and Kemal Bey, governor of Boghazlian. Yacoub Hoja had converted to ^{The} Moslem religion the 250 Armenian families of Karabeyek village, in order to save them from deportation and massacre. Governor Kemal issued orders to deport and massacre the 250 converted families, as other Armenians. Yacoub Hoja strongly protested that ^{The} Moslem religion does not allow to kill^{ing} the 250 converted families. Governor Kemal to replied to him: "As you converted these Armenians according to the dispositions



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Losses and Damages incurred by
the Armenian Community of Nicomedia

	Turkish Pounds
Episcopate	4,000
Girls' School	3,000
The rectory	700
Pangal of churches	250
Töolumba Koghoughi	150
A house on Kadi Bagis Street	500
Bakery of Stambul Djeddesi	400
" " Yokadi Bouzour	400
Building in the Cemetery	400
Little garden of mulberry trees	150
A building in front of the cemetery	400
Stores on Charchi Bashi	200
Three stores	250
Kindergarden	250
Bakery of the Church	750
Monuments in the Cemetery	5,000
The walls	250
Hotel	600
Store of Ankara market	25
Two stores	50

The store of Shekendi	20	
Three stores	100	
Rector's furniture	1,500	
School of girls	250	
Toulumba	250	
Kindergarden	250	
Rectory	300	
Bakery	260	
Fanfar	400	
Old School	500	
Stores and Toghla	2,500	
Askanazian Library	2,500	
Theatre	500	
Hotel furniture	600	
Rector's Library	800	
" Pictures	400	
Rent of Lands	4,000	
Claims of Bakery	5,000	
Furniture in the church	31,146	1

1. Manuscript, Bibliothèque Nour, Paris